UNKNOWN

Tsumuji Yoshimura

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UNKNOWN

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UNKNOWN

Tsumuji Yoshimura

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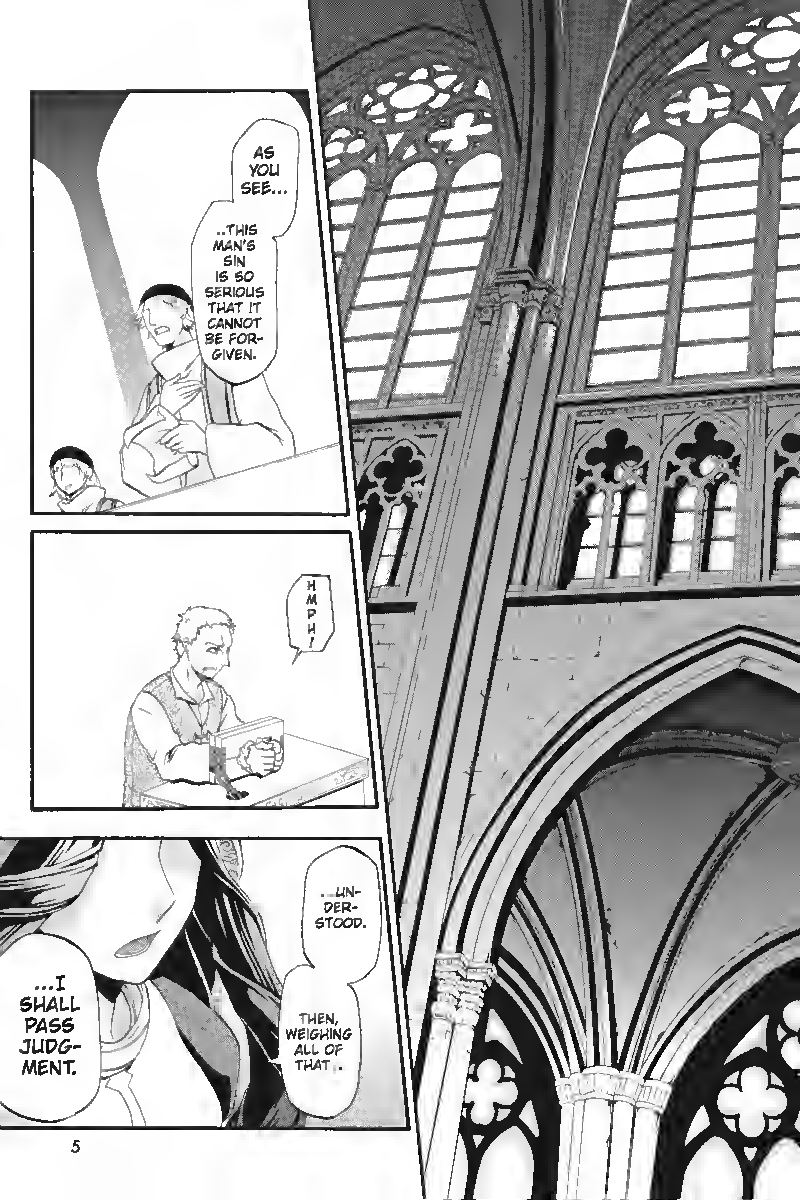
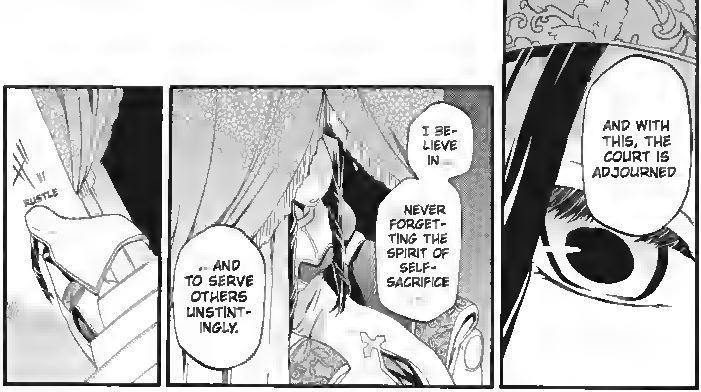
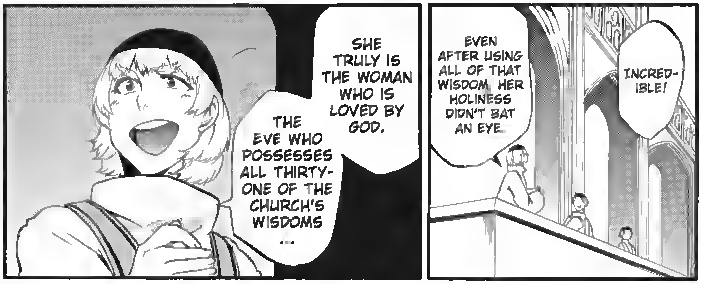

AS YOU SEE...
..THIS MAN'S SIN IS SO SERIOUS THAT IT CANNOT BE FOR-GIVEN.
HMPH!
...I SHALL PASS JUDG-MENT.
THEN, WEIGHING ALL OF THAT..
...UN-DER-STOOD.

HIS INHUMANE ACTIONS MAKE ME WANT TO COVER MY EYES
HOWEVER HE TESTIFIES, A DEFENSE IS UNTENABLE.
AS SUCH...
...THIS CRIMINAL DESERVES A LIFE SENTENCE.
WHA ...!?
RATTLE
I GIVE PERMISSION FOR THE USE OF UNKNOWN NUMBER 2: DIVINE PROTECTION OF THE GODDESS, HERA.

D-DON'T!!
RATTLE
DAMMIT! THIS IS RIDICU-LOUS!
GO TO HELL!
AH... GHHH...
TAP
PHOO
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
WHUMP


RUSTLE
I BELIEVE IN...
NEVER FORGETTING THE SPIRIT OF SELF-SACRIFICE...
...AND TO SERVE OTHERS UNSTINTINGLY.
AND WITH THIS, THE COURT IS ADJOURNED

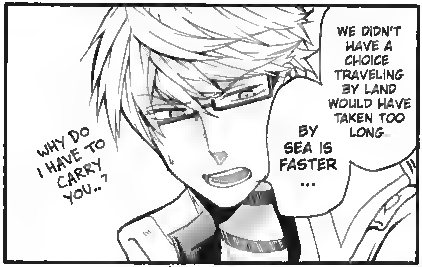

INCREDIBLE!
EVEN AFTER USING ALL OF THAT WISDOM, HER HOLINESS DIDN'T BAT AN EYE.
SHE TRULY IS THE WOMAN WHO IS LOVED BY GOD.
THE EVE WHO POSSESSES ALL THIRTY-ONE OF THE CHURCH'S WISDOMS...

...POPE CARILLON.

Chapter 10:
Absolute Defense (A Prisoner of...)

BLAAARGH!
YOUR FACE IS MAKING ME SICK.
I'M TRULY SICK HERE... OOOGH...
COULD YOU DO THAT WITH LESS GUSTO? YOU'RE MAKING ME FEEL NAUSEATED TOO
THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO GO...
PROOF
I'M IN MISERY AND YOU'RE BUSTING MY CHOPS...
URP...

PSSSS
...BY SHIP!!


WHY DO I HAVE TO CARRY YOU..?
WE DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE TRAVELING BY LAND WOULD HAVE TAKEN TOO LONG
BY SEA IS FASTER ...

I HAVEN'T GOTTEN A DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP SINCE WE'VE BEEN AT SEA.
IVAN, CARRY ME.
.....

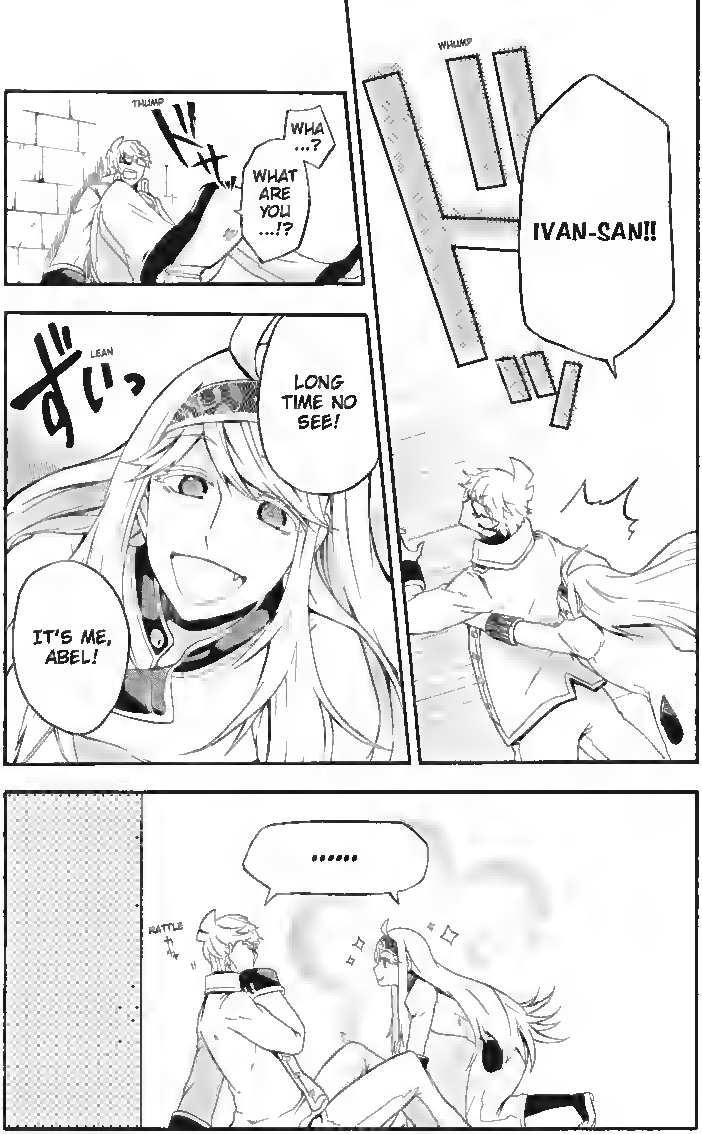
...TO WHERE WE'RE GOING.

BAM
OBJECTION!!
"NAUGHTY"!? WHAT THE HELL IS "NAUGHTY"!?
WHY ARE YOU READING THE TWO OF US THE RIOT ACT, WHILE SET GETS A ONE-WORD REPRIMAND!?
NAUGHTY!
YOU THINK THAT WAS CUTE!? REPULSIVE!!!
AND I'M AGAINST SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION!!
DISCRIMINATION...?
HOW RUDE. THIS ISN'T DISCRIMINATION. IT'S FEMINISM.
DON'T GET YOUR TERMS MIXED UP.
GLINT
WIPE THAT SMUG LOOK OFF YOUR FACE! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S MISUSING WORDS!!!
AT ANY RATE, WE HAVE NO TIME FOR YOUR SILLINESS.
OOOH...
THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED SLIGHTLY.

WE HAVE THE CHANCE TO POSSIBLY OBTAIN A GREAT QUANTITY OF WISDOM AT ONCE.
A CHANCE?
THAT'S RIGHT. GRANTED, IT'S A VERY SLIM CHANCE...
...BUT YOU CAN GET THE DETAILS FROM CAIN AND ABEL.
I ...ARE THEY BACK ..?
NO YOU'RE ALL GOING TO MEET THERE.
TAP
DO
THERE...?
YES.

AT ELYSION.

URGHH... AH. I'M FINALLY FREE OF THOSE DEMONS KNOWN AS WAVES ..
IF YOU'RE WELL ENOUGH TO JABBER NONSENSE, YOU'RE WELL ENOUGH TO WALK ON YOUR OWN.
NO, I'M STILL FEELING THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF ALL THAT SWAYING. URP.
RATTLE
...AT ANY RATE, HE SAID WE WERE TO MEET AT THE HARBOR, BUT WITH ALL OF THESE PEOPLE...
...IT WON'T BE SO EASY...
SIGH..
URP...
AH...STILL NOT FEELING RIGHT. JUST GONNA DUCK INTO THIS ALLEY FOR A MINUTE..
IT IS YOU!!
MM?
U-UM..

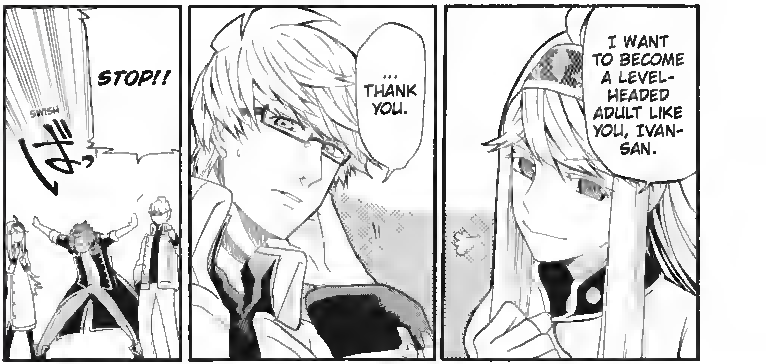

WHUMP
IVAN-SAN!!
THUMP
WHA ...?
WHAT ARE YOU ...!?
LEAN
LONG TIME NO SEE!
IT'S ME, ABEL!
.....
RATTLE

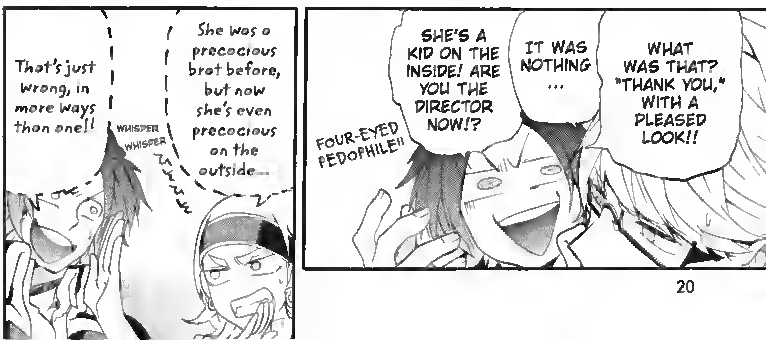
.....?
YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME...?
AHHH... I FINALLY FEEL BETTER. .
UH... WHAT THE WHAT !!?
WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE!? HEY! HUH!?
AH! OX-SAN!
TURN
HUH?
LONG TIME NO SEE. IT'S ME, ABEL.

Before
WAIT A SECOND!! THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU, TWO MONTHS AGO...
... WEREN'T YOU LIKE THIS!!?
ABEL!!?
PAT PAT
CHIFF
AS ALWAYS, OUR DUMB VOICE CARRIES...
MM? THEN YOUR PARTNER ...

CAIN!?
YOU HAVEN'T MATURED AT ALL, HAVE YOU?
WAIT... YOU'VE CHANGED TOO MUCH...
BRATS SHOULD BE SEEN AND NOT HEARD!
SAYS ONE BRAT TO ANOTHER...
SHUT UP, I SAID! I'M STILL ME, SLAPHEAD!!
FINISH
Before
After
CHUCKLE

I CAN'T STAND IMMATURE ADULTS LIKE MY BROTHER.
SIGH...
HAA...
SQUEAL
SQUEAL
LOOK WHO'S TALKING! YOUR FOREHEAD TAKES UP HALF OF YOUR FACE!!
OH YEAH!? YOUR FOREHEAD IS YOUR FACE! IN FACT, IT'S THE CENTER OF YOUR BODY!!


STOP!!
SWISH
...THANK YOU.
I WANT TO BECOME A LEVEL-HEADED ADULT LIKE YOU, IVAN-SAN.


That's just wrong, in more ways than one!!
WHISPER WHISPER
She was a precocious brat before, but now she's even precocious on the outside...
FOUR-EYED PEDOPHILE!!
SHE'S A KID ON THE INSIDE! ARE YOU THE DIRECTOR NOW!?
IT WAS NOTHING...
WHAT WAS THAT? "THANK YOU," WITH A PLEASED LOOK!!

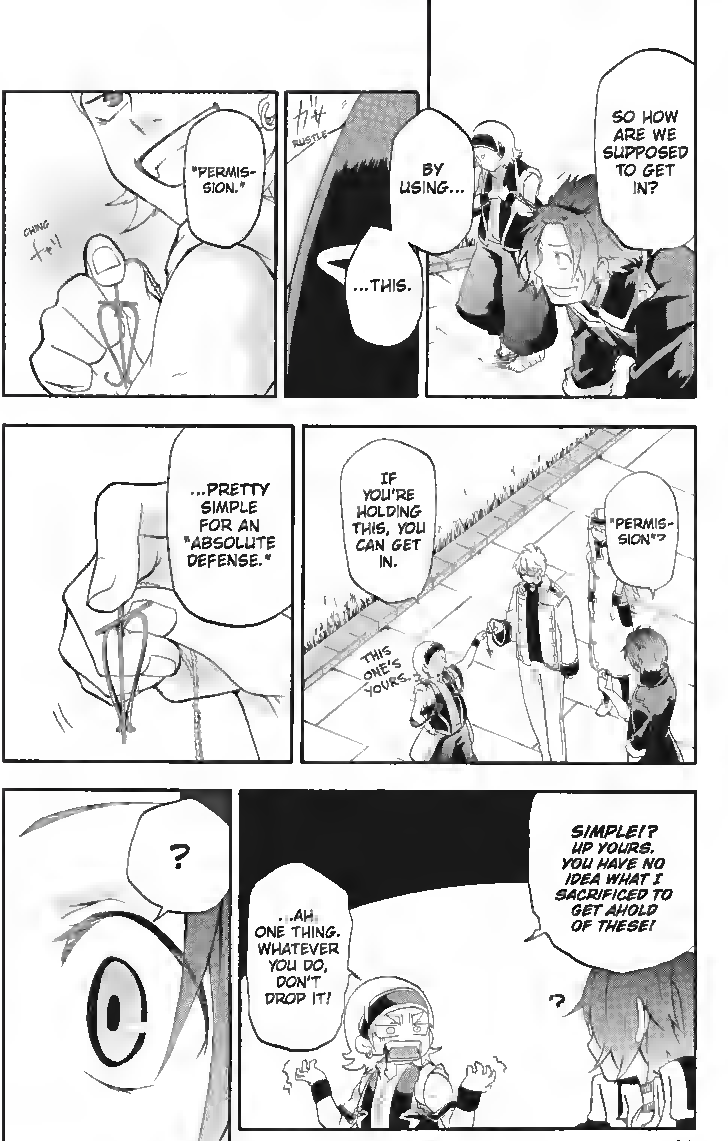
...ALL RIGHT, ENOUGH WITH THE JOKES...
I ASSUME YOU TWO USED TOO MUCH WISDOM?
PARTICULARLY AGEING AND DE-AGEING YOUR BODIES?
LAY INTO HIM MORE! I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T WANT TO BE AN OLD WOMAN!
HMPH...
DON'T WORRY! I'LL TURN INTO AN INFANT BE-FORE YOU BECOME AN OLD HAG!!
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!!
ANYWAY, WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO ANALYZE WISDOM USAGE RIGHT NOW.

INSIDE?
WE CAN TALK ONCE WE'RE ON THE INSIDE.
STOMP!
STOMP
SO CAN THE CHATTER AND LET'S GET MOVING!
HMM.
POINT
YEAH.
OF "ABSOLUTE DEFENSE."

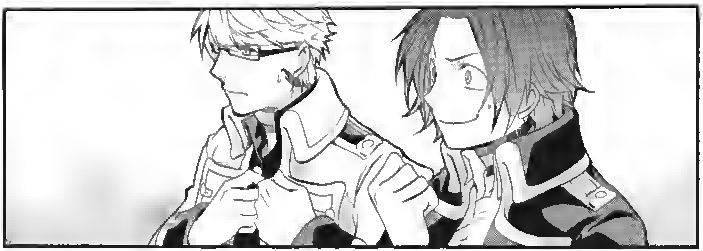
I GET THAT IT'S "ABSOLUTE DEFENSE"...
AND WAY HIGH
...BUT IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A GATE OR A DOOR.
WHISTLE
ULP... I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, TRY GETTING INSIDE.
OKAY, WELL, I'LL TAKE IT NICE AND EASY...

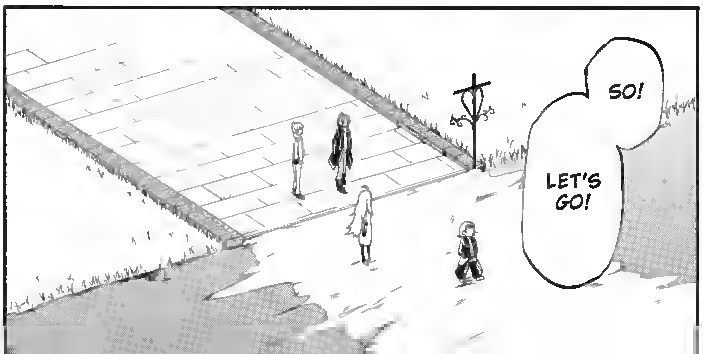
FWISH
!!?
BOOM
THUP
WHIZ
HUH?
...AS YOU CAN SEE, ANYTHING THAT TRIES MAKING IT PAST THAT POINT, WHETHER IT'S A PERSON OR AN OBJECT, GETS BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS.
WHUMP
WHAAAA...!?

AN INVISIBLE FORTRESS... SURROUNDING THIS ENTIRE ISLAND...?
WAIT A SEC. WHAT WERE YOU GONNA DO IF I SUDDENLY CHARGED DOWN THAT PATH?
YOUR BODY WOULD'VE REGENERATED, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T BOTHER SAYING ANYTHING
?
YOU THINK I CAN REGENERATE WHEN I'M IN SMITHEREENS!!?
WISDOM OF THE GODS NUMBER 3: FORTRESS OF THE GODDESS OF PROTECTION, ATHENA.
A HOLY PRECINCT THAT ONLY A FEW ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER...
THAT'S RIGHT.
NOT EVEN THE EMPIRE HAS BEEN ABLE TO ATTACK THE CHURCH.

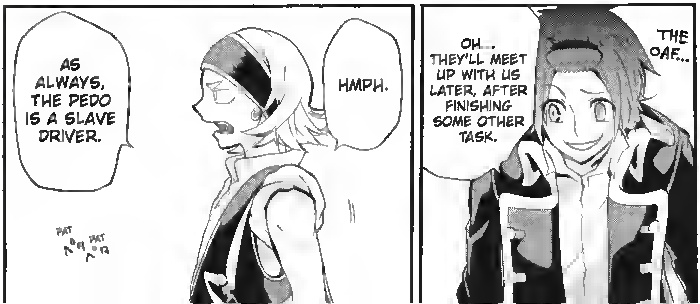

SO HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET IN?
RUSTLE
BY USING...
...THIS.
"PERMISSION."
CHING
IF YOU'RE HOLDING THIS, YOU CAN GET IN.
"PERMISSION"?
THIS ONE'S YOURS.
...PRETTY SIMPLE FOR AN "ABSOLUTE DEFENSE."
?
SIMPLE!? UP YOURS, YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I SACRIFICED TO GET AHOLD OF THESE!
?
...AH. ONE THING. WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T DROP IT!

THE INSTANT YOU LOSE CONTACT WITH IT...
...BOOM!
FINIS.




SO!
LET'S GO!

COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE ARE THE OAF
AND MILADY?
DIDN'T THEY COME WITH YOU?

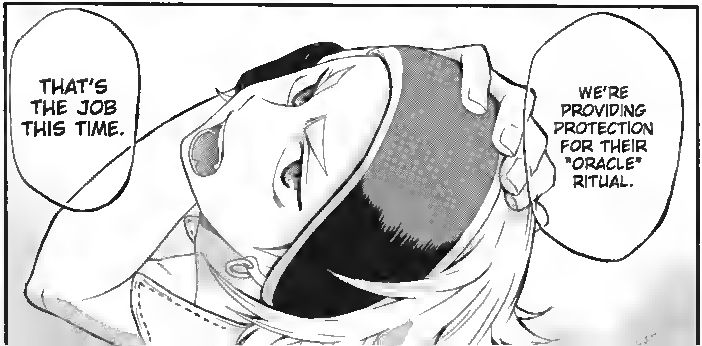

THE OAF...
OH... THEY'LL MEET UP WITH US LATER, AFTER FINISHING SOME OTHER TASK.
HMPH.
AS ALWAYS, THE PEDO IS A SLAVE DRIVER.
PAT PAT PAT PAT

CLANK
HEY! I BROUGHT THEM!
OH...
UNDEPENDABLE AS ALWAYS. YOU'RE FOUR AND A HALF MINUTES LATE.
CLINK
FRIEND OF YOURS...?
YEAH! WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE KIDS.

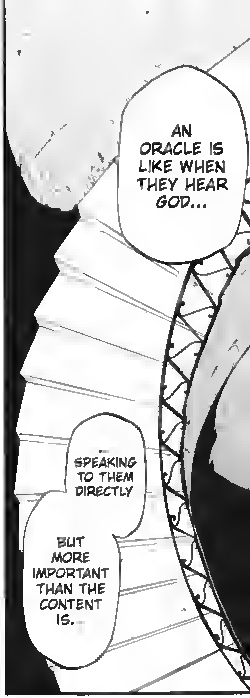
THIS IS PASSEGAND.
SHE'S THE POPE'S PIKE.
WHY NOT? IT'S COOL!
I'VE ASKED YOU NOT TO CALL ME BY THAT APPELLA-TION
PIKE?
YEAH. SHE'S SCARY.
HELLO.
THESE GUYS ARE OX AND IVAN.
THEY'RE HELPING OUT ON THIS MISSION.

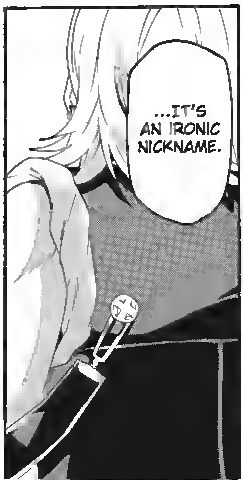
PLEASURE TO MEET YOU. I'M PASSEGAND. I APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION.
THANK YOU. LIKEWISE... MM?

I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE ROOM.
GREAT.
SWISH
WAIT A SECOND!
I don't get what's going on! What mission!?
HUH? WHAT, DIDN'T THE DIRECTOR TELL YOU?


WE'RE PROVIDING PROTECTION FOR THEIR "ORACLE" RITUAL.
THAT'S THE JOB THIS TIME.

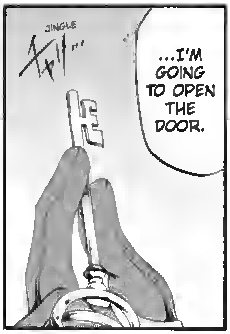
...THAT THE POPE, WHO POSSESSES ALL OF ELYSION'S WISDOM...
...LEAVES THIS ABSOLUTE DEFENSE.

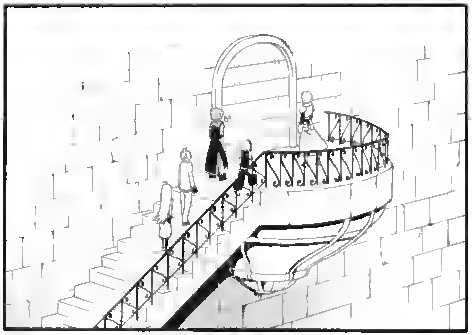

AN ORACLE IS LIKE WHEN THEY HEAR GOD...
...SPEAKING TO THEM DIRECTLY
BUT MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE CONTENT IS.


...IT'S AN IRONIC NICKNAME.

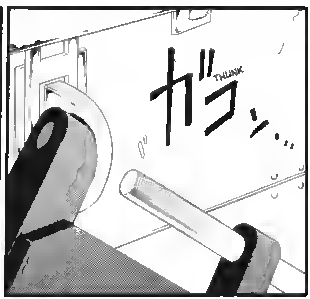
ONE PERSON HOLDS ALL OF THE WISDOM?
YEAH. THAT'S WHY SHE'S KNOWN AS "THE WOMAN WHO IS LOVED BY GOD".

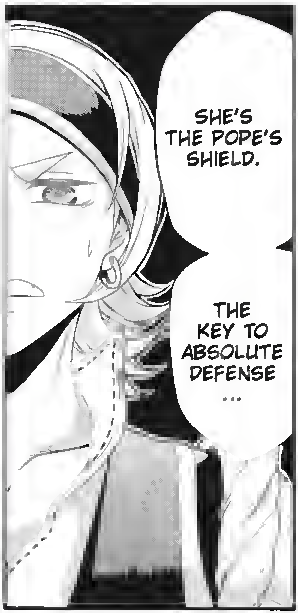
SHEESH! ENOUGH ALREADY!
I MEAN, STAYING COOPED UP IN HERE IS THE OBVIOUS WAY TO GO...
BUT WHY WOULD THE POPE DO SUCH A DANGEROUS THING?
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND ONCE YOU SEE. UNTIL THEN, KEEP YOUR TRAP SHUT!!


JINGLE
...I'M GOING TO OPEN THE DOOR.



CREAK
ギィィ


THUNK
ガコン...


SHE'S THE POPE'S SHIELD.
THE KEY TO ABSOLUTE DEFENSE ...

...THE USER OF "ATHENA".

THIS GIRL....?
BUT SOMETHING ABOUT HER IS OFF...
THIS TOWER WAS BUILT IN THE CENTER OF THE CHURCH.
...AND SHE IS THE CENTER...
...FROM WHICH ABSOLUTE DEFENSE IS CREATED.
STILL, DOES SHE HAVE TO BE KEPT IN CHAINS?
IN CASE THE WORST WERE TO HAPPEN.

SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN EXTREMELY LOYAL.
IN FACT, SHE'S HERE OF HER OWN WILL.
THE CHAINS ARE TO PLACATE THE OLD MEN UPSTAIRS, BECAUSE SHE SCARES THE CRAP OUT OF THEM
IF SHE DIDN'T LIKE IT, SHE COULD HAVE TURNED OFF THE WISDOM LONG AGO.
BUT AS YOU CAN SEE...
...THE POWER OF "ATHENA" IS TOO STRONG.
AND THE DIVINE PUNISHMENT THAT GOES WITH IT IS A HELL OF A PRICE TO PAY.
CLENCH
LOOK AT HER EYES...

YOU CAN TELL SHE'S LOST HER MIND.

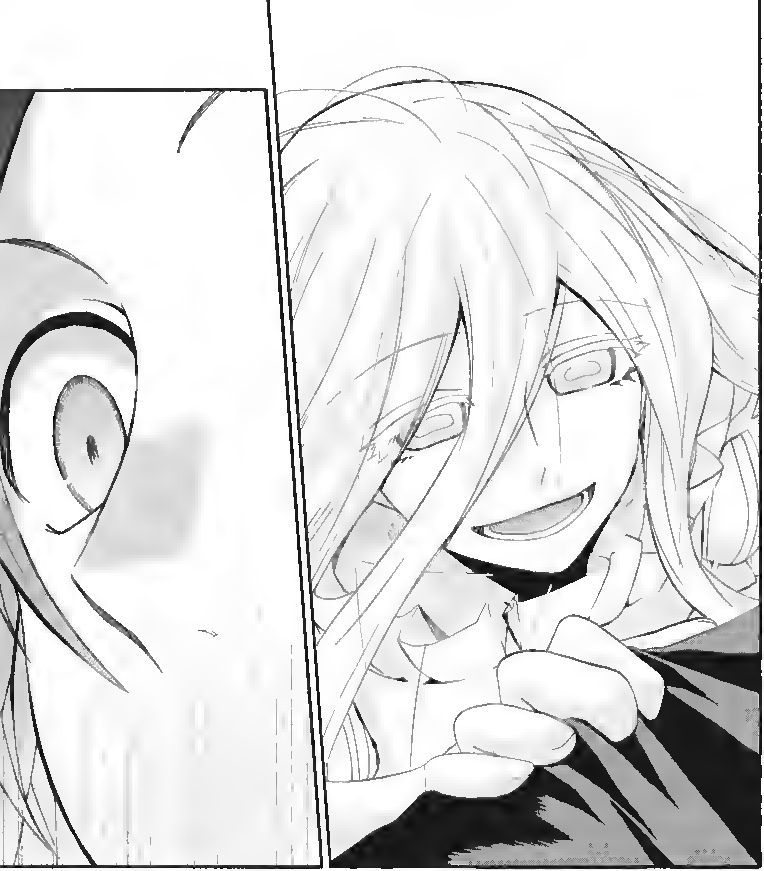
ABSOLUTE DEFENSE IS GOING TO DISAPPEAR SOON.

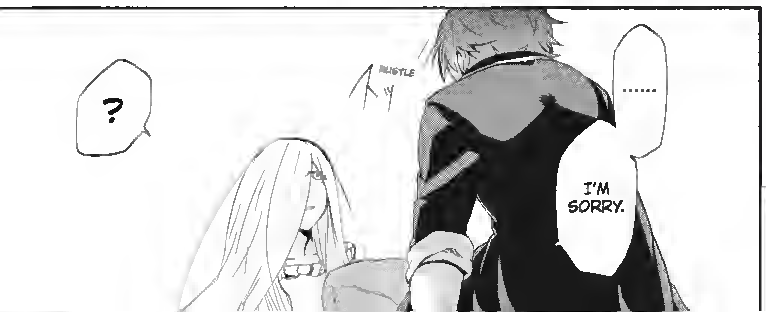
WELL, THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY ACCURATE.
SHE STILL RETAINS THE WILL TO "PROTECT".

BUT...
...THAT'S ALSO A MATTER OF TIME.

AND BEFORE THE EMPIRE CAN FIGURE THAT OUT...
...THE PLAN IS TO USE ORACLE TO LURE THEM INTO THE OPEN AND THEN FINISH THINGS OFF.
OH...
SORRY...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU GUYS.
I'M NOT SCARED...
BUT EVEN IF WE SQUARE OFF AGAINST THE EMPIRE, WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE OF BEATING THEM.
THAT'S WHY WE ASKED FOR YOUR HELP.
OF COURSE.

AND THERE YOU HAVE IT. UNDERSTOOD?
...I PROMISE YOU SUITABLE COMPENSATION IN RETURN.
YES.
ON VARIOUS LEVELS
RUB
RUB
CLENCH
...




WHISTLE
.....
I'M SORRY.
?

I SWEAR IT...!
SQUEEZE
I SWEAR...
...WE'LL GATHER UP ALL THE WISDOM...
?
...AND PUT IT BACK WHERE IT BELONGS.

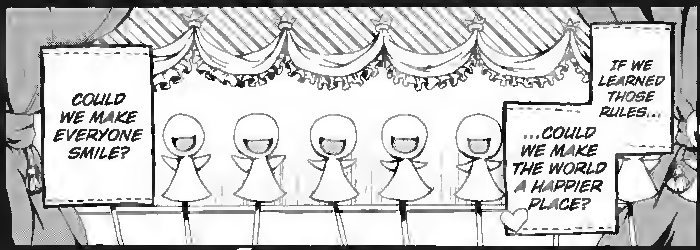
UNKNOWN

Περσεύς

WHAT IS GOD?
TIME ONLY MOVES FORWARD. THIS IS A RULE.
ALL LIVING CREATURES DIE AT SOME POINT. THIS IS A RULE TOO.
HE IS THE ONE WHO MADE THE RULES.
HE DIDN'T MAKE A RULE THAT "ALL PEOPLE WHO PERFORM GOOD DEEDS WILL BE REWARDED" EITHER.
THEN WHY DIDN'T GOD MAKE A RULE THAT "ALL PEOPLE WHO COMMIT EVIL DEEDS WILL BE PUNISHED"?

UNLESS MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING WE STILL DON'T KNOW ABOUT...
...SECRET RULES THAT ONLY GOD KNOWS...

IF HE HAD, THE WORLD WOULD HAVE SO EASILY BECOME A HAPPY PLACE.


COULD WE MAKE EVERYONE SMILE?
IF WE LEARNED THOSE RULES...
...COULD WE MAKE THE WORLD A HAPPIER PLACE?

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT WHEN I WAS YOUNG...

CRUNCH
WHEN I REACHED OUT FOR THAT FRUIT...
AND YET, I HAVEN'T SEEN...
...SMILES ON EVERY-ONE'S FACES.

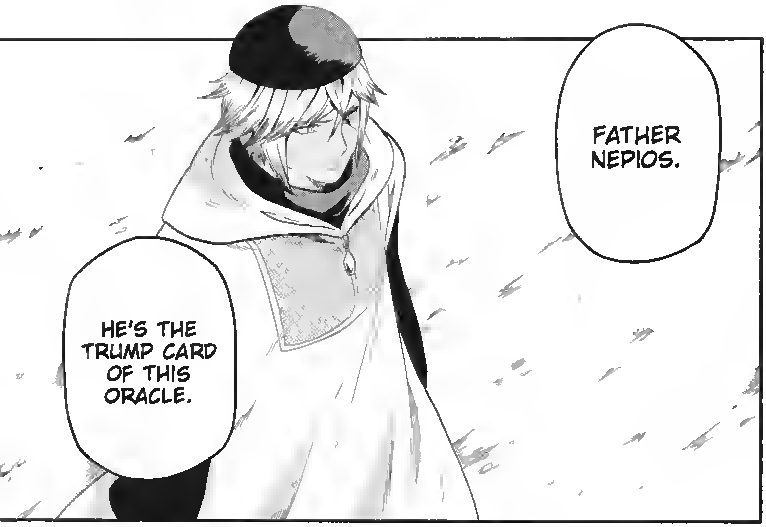
DON'T LOOK DOWN.
FWOO
THAT'S WHY I...
THE MOMENT YOU LOOK DOWN, YOU'RE *PRETENDING* THAT YOU DON'T SEE IT
THAT DOESN'T CHANGE REALITY ONE BIT AND PEOPLE WILL STOP LOOKING YOU IN THE EYE.
SO...
...LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD.
SHFF

SNAP
WHAT I SEE IS MY OWN CREEPY FACE...
AND I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO...
SPLASH
SPLASH
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. IT REALLY SOUNDED HIGH AND MIGHTY...
COMING!
RUSTLE
OKAY, OKAY!
WE'RE LEAV-ING.
OK, QUIT LOLLY-GAGGING.

Chapter 11:
Look Straight Ahead (Barrette)

BUZZ
BUZZ
GLANCE
GLANCE
FEELS LIKE SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN, HUH?
CLANK
MASTER OX...
MASTER IVAN...
CLANK
CLANK
PASSEGAND-SAN!

Y-YOU'RE VERY KIND!
BOW
RUSTLE
AGAIN, I APPRECIATE YOUR AID TODAY.
AH... NO.
SO...
...WE JUST HAVE TO PROTECT THE POPE TODAY?
I WANT YOU TWO TO PROTECT...
...HIM.


FATHER NEPIOS.
HE'S THE TRUMP CARD OF THIS ORACLE.

YES...
EVEN IF WE CHALLENGED THEM HEAD-ON, WE WOULDN'T HAVE A CHANCE, SO..

TRUMP CARD...?

SHUT UP...
MM? YOU MEAN ...?

WHA ...!!?
ALL YOU MORONS HAVE TO DO IS SHUT YOUR MOUTHS AND PROTECT ME LIKE YOU WERE TOLD.
TCH!
THAT'S ENOUGH, NEPIOS!! THERE'S NO CALL FOR SUCH RUDENESS!
SWISH
NOW I'LL GIVE YOU A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE PLAN INSIDE THE TENT.
OKAY ...
I APOLOGIZE...I'LL GIVE HIM A STERN LECTURE LATER ON.

RUSTLE
IF HE'S STILL ALIVE AND WHEN THE POPE REACHES THE ORACULUM...
...WE WIN.
AFTER THE PEOPLE GET A CHANCE TO SEE THE POPE, WE ROLL OUT FROM ABSOLUTE DEFENSE...
...AND HEAD FOR THE ORACULUM.
WHY IS THAT A WIN?
SORRY.
RIGHT NOW, THIS IS THE ONLY WAY.

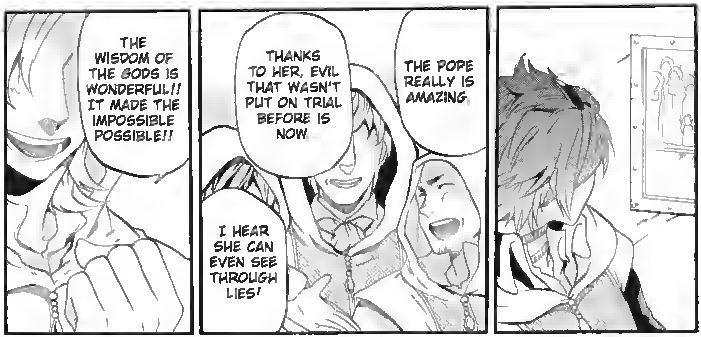
THIS TIME, WE'RE USING THE OLD ORACULUM AMONG THE CLIFFS, A DEPARTURE FROM THE USUAL.
WE HAVE THREE ROUTES TO GET THERE.
SO ...
.....?
...IN ORDER TO SPLIT UP THE ENEMY'S MILITARY FORCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE...
...WE'LL ALSO SPLIT UP INTO THREE GROUPS AND HEAD FOR THE ORACULUM.
BUT IF WE CAN BREAK THROUGH, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
CLENCH
OF COURSE I'M FULLY AWARE OF THAT.
WAIT! THEN YOU'RE DIVIDING OUR FIGHTING STRENGTH INTO THREE.

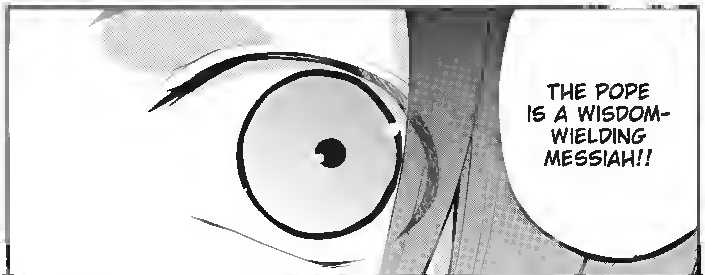
BESIDES, IF WE LOSE THE POPE, WHO POSSESSES ALL OF OUR WISDOM, IT'S OVER.
IF ABSOLUTE DEFENSE DISAPPEARS, WE ARE HELPLESS.
UNLIKE THE EMPIRE...
...MOST OF OUR WISDOM ISN'T ADVANTAGEOUS IN BATTLE.
W-WELL, YEAH...
...THE MORE WHO ARRIVE AT THE ORACULUM, THE BETTER.
SURVIVE AND LET US RENDEZ-VOUS THERE
THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS OPERATION ARE THE SURVIVAL OF THE POPE AND THE PRIEST, BUT...
NEVER FORGET THE SPIRIT OF SELF-SACRIFICE!
I WISH YOU GOOD LUCK.

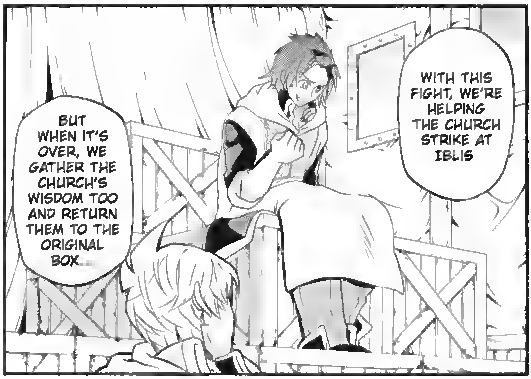
YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?
GOTO
GOTO
GOTO
...
SCARES ME WHEN SHE TAKES IT THAT FAR.
LIKE SAYING IT'S OKAY TO DIE ON SOMEONE ELSE'S BEHALF.
SELF-SACRIFICE, HUH?

THE BASIC IDEA ISN'T BAD. THEY JUST TAKE IT TOO FAR.
TO THEM, RISKING ONE'S LIFE TO SAVE ANOTHER'S IS A VIRTUE.
...YOU CAN'T BLAME HER.
THAT'S HOW THESE PEOPLE THINK.

REGARDING THE WISDOM OF THE GODS, THEY EVEN TAKE THE "DIVINE PUNISHMENT" AS SELF-SACRIFICE THAT SAVES OTHER PEOPLE.
BUT AS A RULE, THEY CAN'T DECIDE ON WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE. AGAIN, THAT'S WHO THEY ARE.


THE WISDOM OF THE GODS IS WONDERFUL!! IT MADE THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE!!
THANKS TO HER, EVIL THAT WASN'T PUT ON TRIAL BEFORE IS NOW.
I HEAR SHE CAN EVEN SEE THROUGH LIES!
THE POPE REALLY IS AMAZING.


THE POPE IS A WISDOM-WIELDING MESSIAH!!


BUT WHEN IT'S OVER, WE GATHER THE CHURCH'S WISDOM TOO AND RETURN THEM TO THE ORIGINAL BOX.
WITH THIS FIGHT, WE'RE HELPING THE CHURCH STRIKE AT IBLIS
HEY, IVAN.

.....

WHAT? I'M BEING SERIOUS FOR ONCE!!
WHAT NONSENSE. AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT IT'S NONSENSE.

THAT IS WHAT WE SHOULD DO, RIGHT?

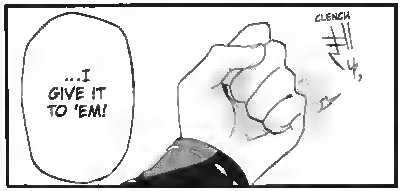
RUSTLE
IN THE END, THEY'RE USING THE WISDOM AND THINK THEY'RE IN THE RIGHT.
THEY'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM THE EMPIRE.
NEITHER ARE WE, FOR THAT MATTER.
BUT...
FLUTTER
.. AND THAT THE WISDOM SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN RELEASED INTO THE WORLD...
...IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE SUFFERING OUT THERE BECAUSE OF IT...
...SO...

...ALL WE CAN DO IS ADMIT THE SIN WE COMMITTED...
...AND MOVE FORWARD.
SLICE
YOU'RE RIGHT.

RUN!
EVERYONE!! FROM HERE ON IN, ABSOLUTE DEFENSE IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT!! BE ON GUARD!!
YES!
I TOLD YOU TO WAIT AT THE CHURCH!
I DON'T LIKE THIS... I'M SCARED ...
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
DOPE! UNLIKE A GUY I KNOW WITH A HUGE FOREHEAD, I DON'T NEED A MOTHER FIGURE!
MOTHER
I-I WANT TO HELP TOO! AND I WOULD WORRY ABOUT YOU BEING ON YOUR OWN.

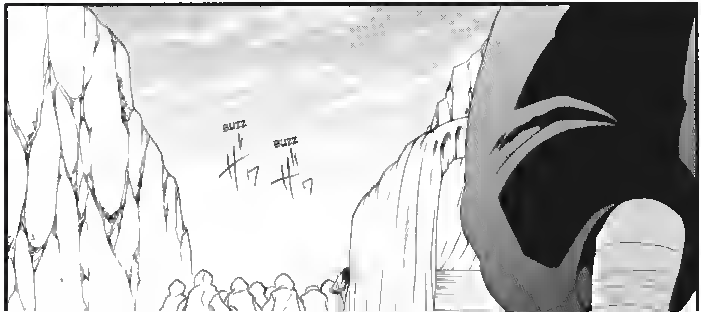
SHUDDER

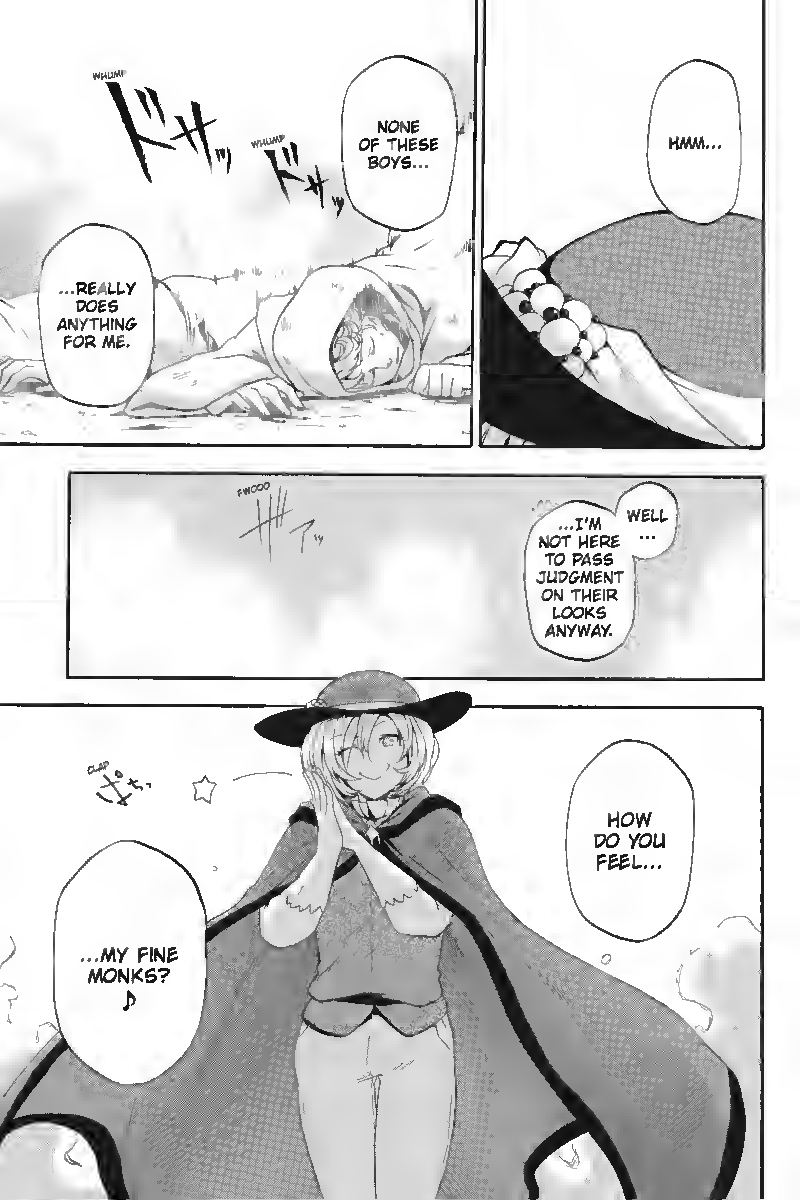
WHEN SOMEONE COMES LOOKING FOR A FIGHT...


CLENCH
...I GIVE IT TO 'EM!

WAIT!!
YOU STAY HERE!
THUD

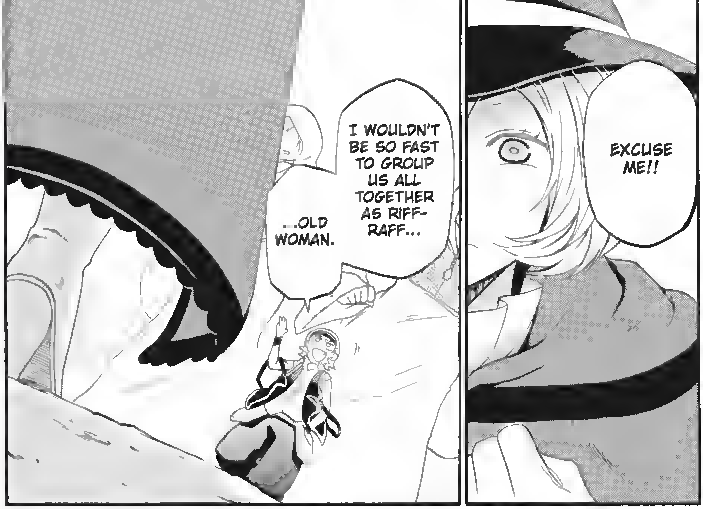
WE'VE STOPPED... ARE WE THERE ALREADY?
OF COURSE NOT!
THEY WERE WAITING FOR US, HUH?
ALL RIGHTY..


BUZZ
BUZZ


WHUMP
WHUMP
NONE OF THESE BOYS...
...REALLY DOES ANYTHING FOR ME.
HMM...
FWOOD
WELL ...
...I'M NOT HERE TO PASS JUDGMENT ON THEIR LOOKS ANYWAY.
CLAP
HOW DO YOU FEEL...
...MY FINE MONKS? ♪

AN IBLIS SENTINEL!!
EVERYONE, GUARD THE POPE...!!!
!!
ARE YOU THE POPE?
...!!

URK!
A DOUBLE —!?
CRASH
WHAT!? WE GOT SKUNKED?
THIS WON'T DO!
RUSTLE
FINE THEN. SHALL WE...
...GET RID OF THIS RIFFRAFF THEN?


EXCUSE ME!!
I WOULDN'T BE SO FAST TO GROUP US ALL TOGETHER AS RIFF-RAFF...
...OLD WOMAN.

OH, DEAR BOY.
THIS ISN'T A PLAY-GROUND. IF YOU BUTT IN HERE, YOU'LL LIKELY...
THOK
...GET HURT.
SWISH

HEH HEH!
!
OH ?
WHOOSH
A SHORT-TEMEPERED OAF WITH A BAD HAIRCUT...
...AND A MINCING DRAG QUEEN.
OH, YOU'RE ACTUALLY ACROBATIC! ♪
RUSTLE
YOU HAVE TO BE THE PAIR THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT.
AND AGAINST THE LIKES OF YOU...

SWISH
...ONE OF ME IS PLENTY!
OH, WHAT A HEROIC LINE! ♪
I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST A CHILD WHO OVER-REACHES
THEN WHY DON'T WE LET THE OTHER BOYS HANDLE THE REAL POPE AND STAY HERE...
...TO HAVE SOME FUN?
GWIN

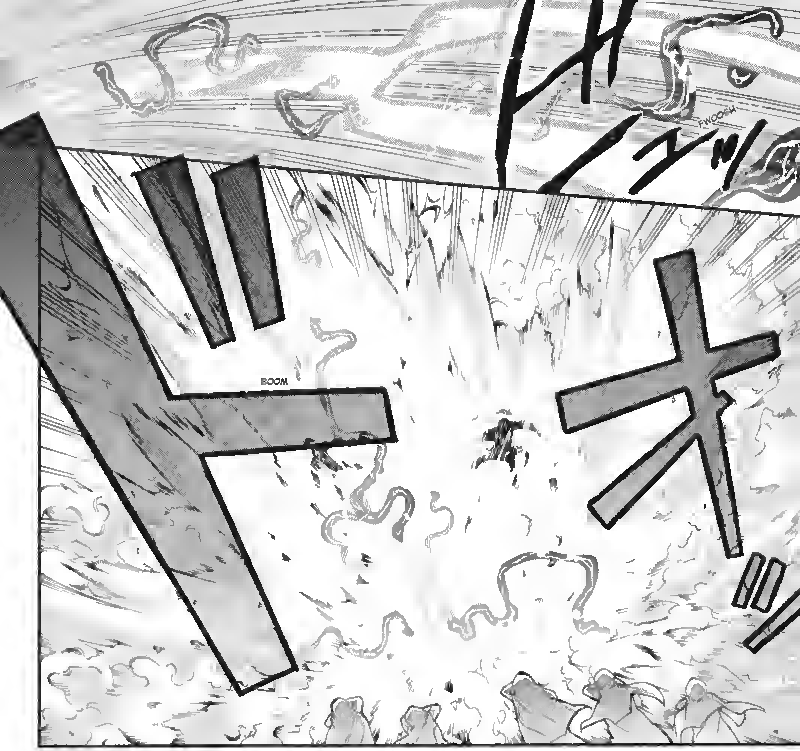
...THIS IS A PRETTY BRAZEN AMBUSH.
"AMBUSH"? WHAT'S THAT. .?
I'M JUST HERE..
FWOOO

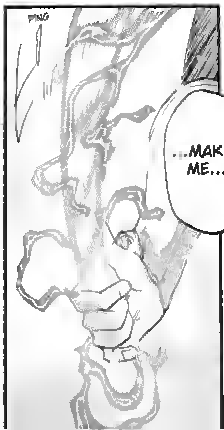
CLANG
...TO GET MY JOB DONE!!
BAM
FWISH
FWISH?
ROAR
SMACK
PREPARE TO DIE, POPE!!!
WHOOSH

WAIT!
HUH? A MAN!?
ARE YOU A FOLLOWER !?
WHOOSH
OVER THERE !!!
I KNEW IT!!
I WAS RIGHT!!
SWISH
RUSTLE
THAT HUGE SWORD AND SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH ...

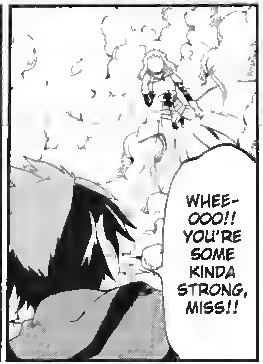
HUH?
DON'T...
SWISH
TUG
...THE MARQUIS OF AVEYASH?
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
THAT'S RIGHT!!
GO AHEAD, CHARGE ME! I'LL CUT YOU ALL IN TWO!!
SWOOSH
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
...UNDER-ESTIMATE ME!!
UNKNOWN NUMBER 7: RAGE OF THE GOD OF ORIGINS, ARES!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

WHOOSH
OH! A LIGHTNING LANCE!? HOW COOL!!!
SWISH
LET'S GET HER HOLINESS AWAY!!
WHOOSH
I'LL OPEN UP A MEANS OF ESCAPE!!
TWITCH
! AMBUSHING TROOPS!!
SWISH


FWOOSH
BOOM


PING
...MAKIN' ME...

CRACKLE CRACKLE
YOU'RE ...

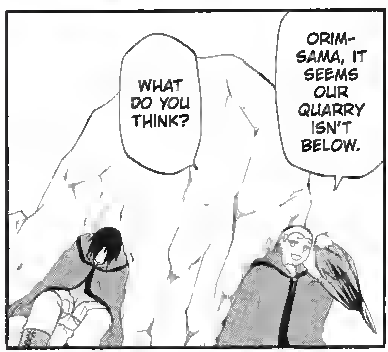

WHEE-OOO!! YOU'RE SOME KINDA STRONG, MISS!!

...GET SERIOUS FROM THE GET-GO HERE!!
CLANG
WHOOSH
DASH

HA HA HA!

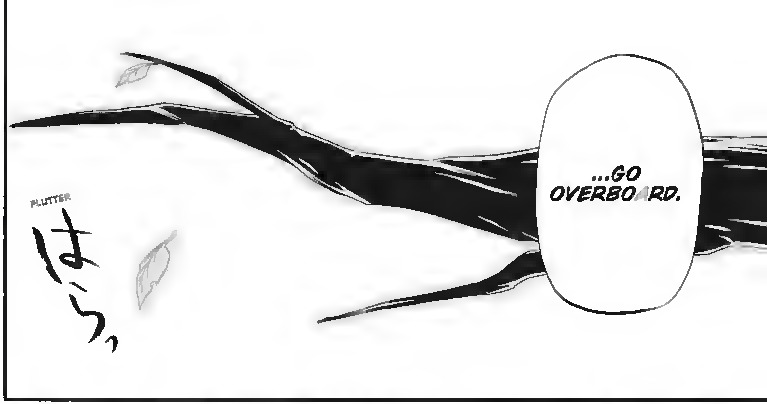
FLAP
FLAP
EVERYONE IS SO HOT-BLOODED. THIS WORLD IS FULL OF MONKEYS.

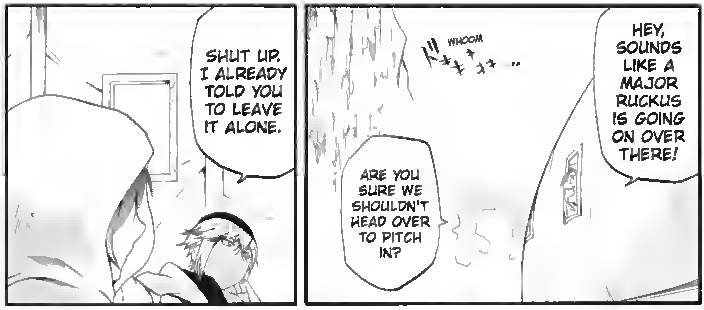
BOOM


ORIM-SAMA, IT SEEMS OUR QUARRY ISN'T BELOW.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

OH! YOUR EYES ALWAYS LOOK LIKE JEWELS WHEN I LOOK AT THEM.
... MM?
YOU MEAN, AVE-YASH-SAMA'S —

SHALL WE JOIN THE FRAY —?
NO.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A BIT OF A JOKE, AVEYASH IS HIS MAJESTY'S RIGHT-HAND MAN...
HE'S GOT OTHER WISEMEN ON HIS TEAM TOO, SO I'M SURE HE'LL HAVE NO PROBLEM.
I'M GOING TO HUNT MY OWN PREY.
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
I'VE ALWAYS HATED MONKS ANYWAY.
FLAP
YOU LOOK LIKE A MONK, BUT I DON'T MEAN YOU.
.....
WELL, THEN I'LL LEAVE YOU TO IT.
JUST DON'T...


...GO OVERBOARD.
FLUTTER

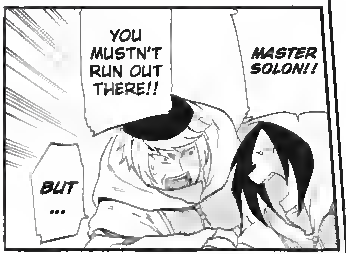

SHUT UP. I ALREADY TOLD YOU TO LEAVE IT ALONE.
WHOOM
HEY, SOUNDS LIKE A MAJOR RUCKUS IS GOING ON OVER THERE!
ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULDN'T HEAD OVER TO PITCH IN?

Y'KNOW, YOU'RE REALLY A...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO THE OTHERS...
YOUR ONLY CONCERN IS GETTING ME TO THE ORACLE.

SLAM
SLAM
AAAAAH!!
TOP
TOP
POP
WHAT WAS THAT!?
WE DIDN'T SPOT ANY ENEMY SOL-DIERS!!
BAM
BLAST IT!
FWISH
UNKNOWN NUMBER 16: EYES OF THE HEAVENS, AITHER!
SKREEE

SOME-ONE'S ON TOP OF THAT CLIFF!!
SWISH
HA!
OVER THERE!!
FWOOO
WHAT, THEY'VE FOUND ME ALREADY?
FOO
STILL...
...IT DOESN'T REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO ME.

BLAM
SPATTER
AAAAH!
WHAT IS HE FIRING ...?
EVERY-ONE!! HIDE BEHIND THE WAGON !!
TAKE COVER!!
GAS


YOU MUSTN'T RUN OUT THERE!!
MASTER SOLON!!
BUT ...

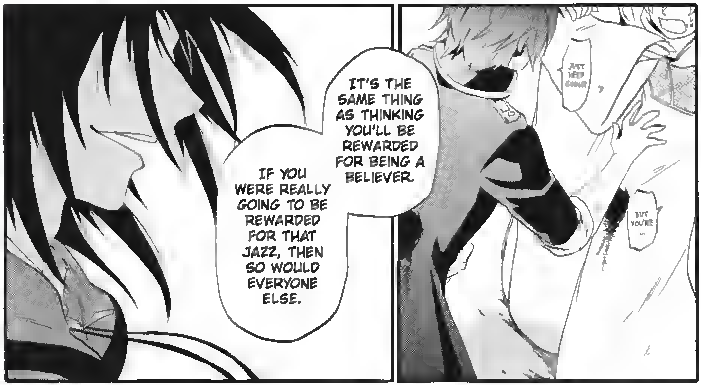
UNGH...

MASTER NEPIOS, PLEASE KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN.
TCH!

BASTARD! HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE PROTECTING ME...

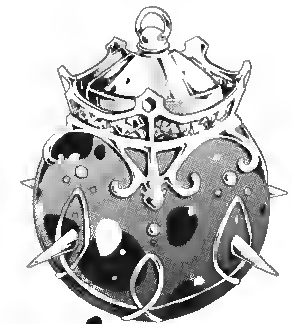
I'M SORRY ...!
SLUMP
YOU OKAY!? LET'S GO!!
SLAM

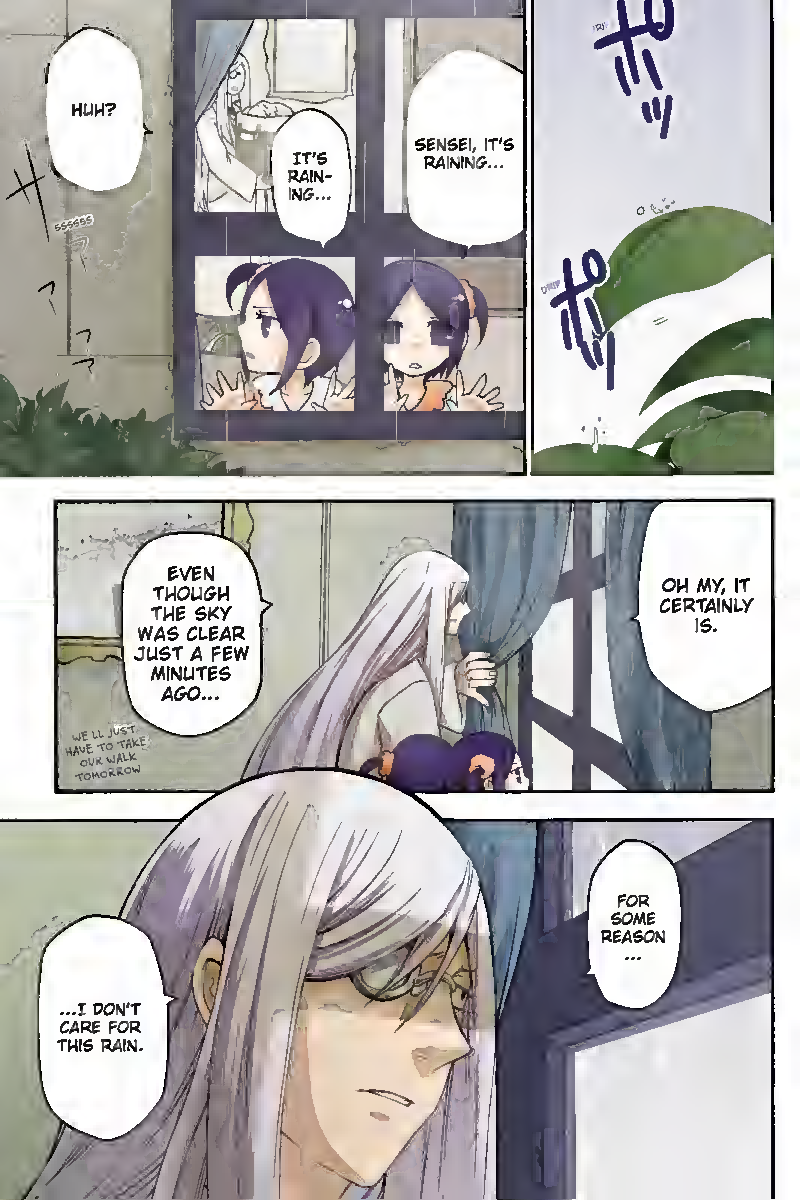
DID YOU BELIEVE YOU'D BE REWARDED FOR DOING GOOD DEEDS?


IF YOU WERE REALLY GOING TO BE REWARDED FOR THAT JAZZ, THEN SO WOULD EVERYONE ELSE.
IT'S THE SAME THING AS THINKING YOU'LL BE REWARDED FOR BEING A BELIEVER.
JUST NEVER COMING.
JUST YOU'RE...

FACE IT, THE WORLD IS UNFAIR. THE ONLY THING YOU CAN BELIEVE IN IS YOURSELF.
DON'T YOU AGREE?

OR DO YOU ALSO NEED TIME TO PRAY...
...MY FOOLHARDY FRIEND?


Νάρκισσος


HUH?
SSSSSS
IT'S RAIN-ING...
SENSEI, IT'S RAINING...
EVEN THOUGH THE SKY WAS CLEAR JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO...
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE OUR WALK TOMORROW
OH MY, IT CERTAINLY IS.
...I DON'T CARE FOR THIS RAIN.
FOR SOME REASON ...

Chapter 12 Rain (Air Hole

Aion's

FOO
DO YOU NEED TIME TO PRAY...
...MY FOOLHARDY FRIEND?
IVAN!!
I KNOW!!
BOOM
BOOM

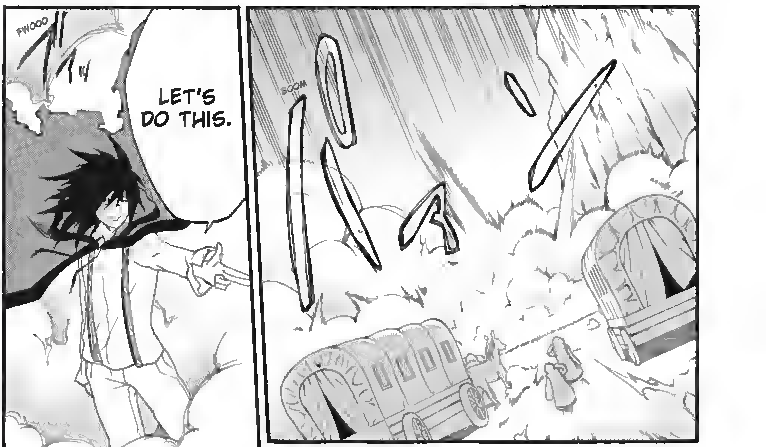
!?
WHOOSH
THUK

GOOD QUES-TION!
WHOOM
FWISH
HOW DID YOU GET OVER HERE?
IT'S NOT PRECISELY FLYING...
WELL, WELL. YOU TWO POSSESS THE WISDOM FOR FLYING.
BUT HE'S GOT A HOLE IN HIS STOMACH! AT THIS RATE—

IT'S ALREADY BEEN SEALED WITH APOLLO. THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
YOU'RE USING MULTIPLE WISDOMS !?
BUT MULTIPLE PIECES OF WISDOM CAN'T BE USED AT THE SAME TIME. IN OTHER WORDS...
...BEFORE, YOU GUESSED WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO...
...AND SWITCHED PERMISSION TO A NEW WISDOM IN LINE WITH THAT.
PRETTY SNEAKY.
..EVES ARE JUST HUMANS WHO POSSESS THE WISDOM.
IN A FIGHT BETWEEN ADAMS, WE TRY TO STAY OUT OF THE WAY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
THAT MUCH IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO.

SLASH
SLAM
DODGING IN MID-AIR...THAT TRULY IS A WONDERFUL YET VEXING WISDOM.
SPIN
BYE...
!

SWISH
WAIT A SECOND ...
SWISH
SWISH


FWOOD
LET'S DO THIS.
BOOM

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
GAH!
SPLAT
NEPIOS-SAMA!! PLEASE GET BACK!!
SPLURT
ONE PETAL...
TWO PETALS...
COME ON, BLOOM EVEN MORE PRETTILY FOR ME.

EVEN SPIDER LILIES LOOK NICE WHEN YOU MAKE A BOUQUET OF THEM, RIGHT?
SLIDE
AS A FLOWER TO OFFER HIS ESTEEMED MAJESTY...
...THIS IS ON THE SMALL SIDE.
....?
HUFF...
...TO HAVE SERVED... AS YOUR SHIELD.
I AM HONORED ...
SMAKE
HEY!!
BAM
I TOLD YOU TO WAIT FOR ME!!

SLAM
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU TRY THAT, THE RESULT WILL BE THE SAME!!
WELCOME.
IF YOU DODGE NOW, IT'LL HIT SOMEONE ELSE.
GRIN
THAT WASN'T THE SAME.
SWISH
IN THAT CASE...

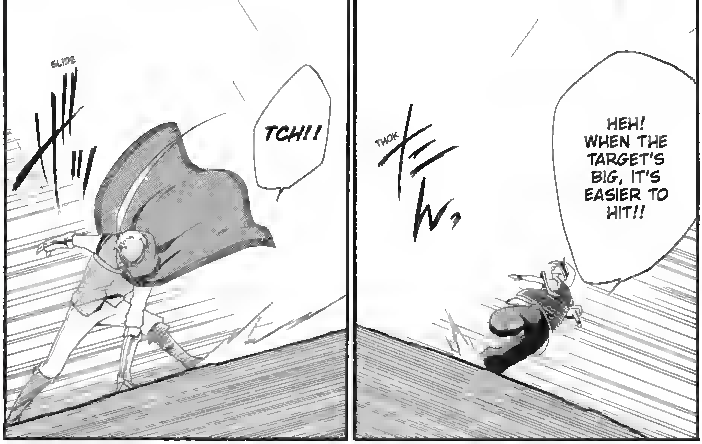
CHARGING ME HEAD-ON IS FOOLISH.
FOO
CRACK
!!
BLAM
SHEER

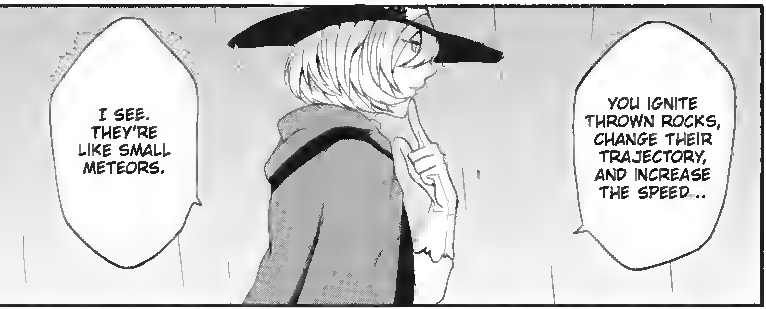
!!
SNAP
WHAM
SLIT
DON
...I JUST WON'T DODGE, RIGHT?
SWISH
YOU REGEN-ERATED ...!?
DANGLE
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE HAD A HOLE IN HIS STOMACH BEFORE.
DID HE SEAL THAT UP TOO...?

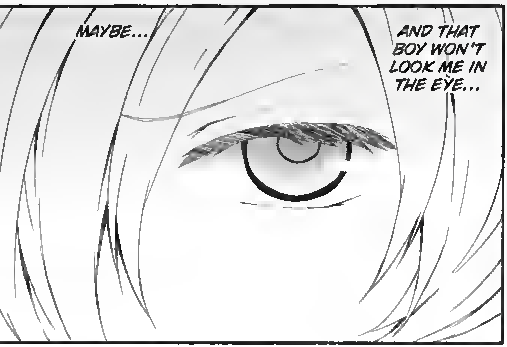
HA-HA-HA-HA! WONDERFUL! YOU POSSESS THE MOST WONDERFUL WISDOM!
?
HEH.
EVEN IF YOUR LIMBS WERE RIPPED OFF AND YOUR STOMACH WAS BLOWN APART...
...YOU WOULD STILL BE ABLE TO BLOOM AGAIN AND AGAIN...
...LIKE A FLOWER THAT NEVER FALLS!
STILL, A FLOWER IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WHEN IT SCATTERS ITS PETALS.
I'VE SUDDENLY BECOME EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN YOU.

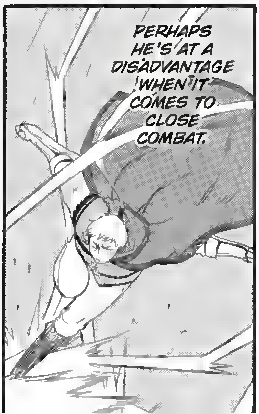
FINISH
I'M GOING TO TRY SCATTERING YOU...
...BY OPENING AN AIR HOLE IN YOUR HEART!
...NOT TOO CREEPY, HUH?
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
SSSSIS
OH NO! RAIN!?
MY MAKEUP WILL RUN!
WHOOSH
...BUT THAT BOY...
I'D LIKE TO WRAP THIS UP QUICKLY AND GO HOME...

UNKNOWN NUMBER 12: METEORS OF THE DEMIGOD, PERSEUS!
WHOOSH
WHIZ
FWU
SWISH
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM


SLIDE
TCH!!
THOK
HEH! WHEN THE TARGET'S BIG, IT'S EASIER TO HIT!!


I SEE. THEY'RE LIKE SMALL METEORS.
YOU IGNITE THROWN ROCKS, CHANGE THEIR TRAJECTORY, AND INCREASE THE SPEED..


MAYBE...
AND THAT BOY WON'T LOOK ME IN THE EYE...


PERHAPS HE'S AT A DISADVANTAGE WHEN IT COMES TO CLOSE COMBAT.

THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE. THIS IS GOING TO BE A LITTLE ROUGH, BUT...

...HE HATES ME!

KINES-SAMA!

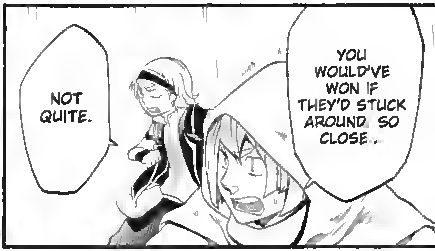
OH. ETHICA?
THE GORILLA I CAN UNDER-STAND, BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING GOOFING AROUND?

AVEYASH-SAMA IS BATTLING A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT.
LEAVE THAT CHILD TO THE REGULAR SOLDIERS AND JOIN THE MAIN PARTY.

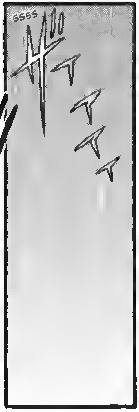
AND WE WERE JUST GETTING TO THE GOOD PART...
I'M SORRY...
...WE WEREN'T ABLE TO PLAY TO THE END!!
SW SH
FWISH
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANY-WHERE!!
HEY, WAIT!!
BA
TOOT

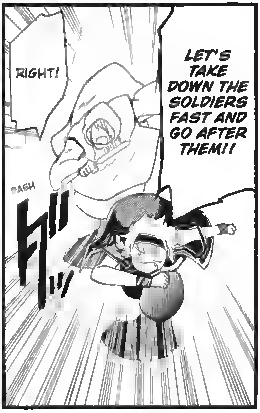
TUG
IT TOOK TIME TO IGNITE THE ROCKS BECAUSE OF THE RAIN...
IF MY TIMING HAD BEEN OFF, I WOULD'VE BEEN IN DEEP TROUBLE...!!

TCH!


NOT QUITE.
YOU WOULD'VE WON IF THEY'D STUCK AROUND. SO CLOSE..

BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM


SSSS


RIGHT!
LET'S TAKE DOWN THE SOLDIERS FAST AND GO AFTER THEM!!
AGH

I KNOW HE CAN HEAL, BUT HE'S GOT THAT CONFIDENT SMILE EVEN AFTER BEING SHOT... DOESN'T HE FEEL PAIN?
OH, HE DOES ...
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
USING AID FROM THE GOD OF PROPHECY IS A MAJOR STRAIN ON THE MIND AND BODY.. I DON'T WANT HIM TO USE IT REPEATEDLY...
BUT, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE. SOMETHING FEELS STRANGE HERE...

OX!! DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO FAR!!
DON'T WORRY...
I'M ALMOST DONE HERE!!
THOK
SWISH
RUSTLE

SHUUP
POP
CLICK
HIS ARM...!

DAMMIT!
SWISH
SLUMP
BOTH ARMS... THIS WAY...
THUK

...YOU CAN'T USE ANY MORE WISDOM!!
CHUFF
CHUFF
SSSSS
IT SEEMS YOU'RE RIGHT.
SO DO WHAT YOU WILL WITH ME.
.....
SSSS
SSSS
I DON'T NEED YOUR PERMIS-SION!

YOU DID IT!!
SWISH

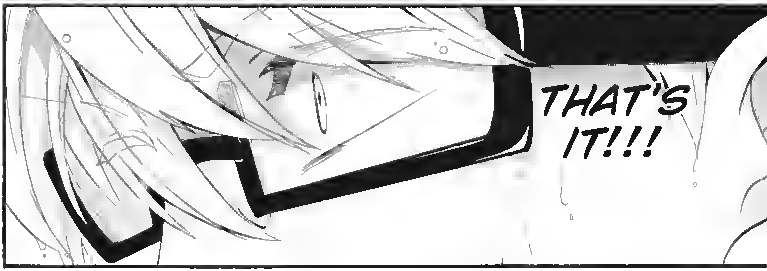
SSSS
アアアア

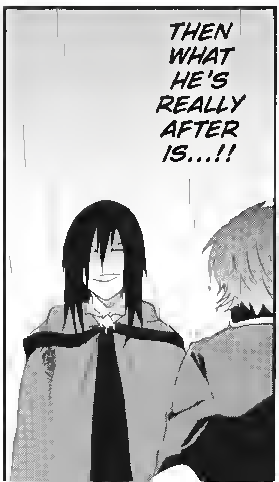
NOW ALL WE NEED DO IS ARRIVE AT THE ORACULUM ...
...AND THEN WE WIN!!

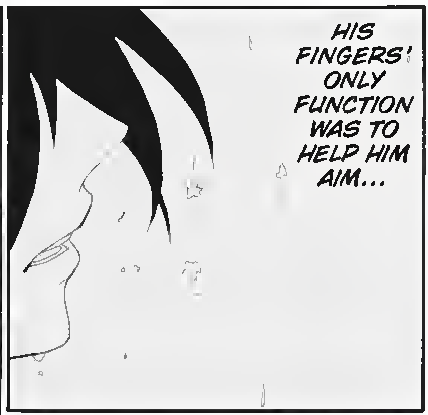
...JUST FEELS WRONG.

SOME-THING...
...WHAT'S WRONG, FOUR-EYES? YOU LOOK GLUM.

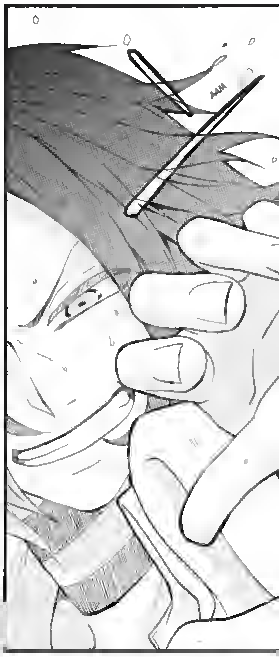
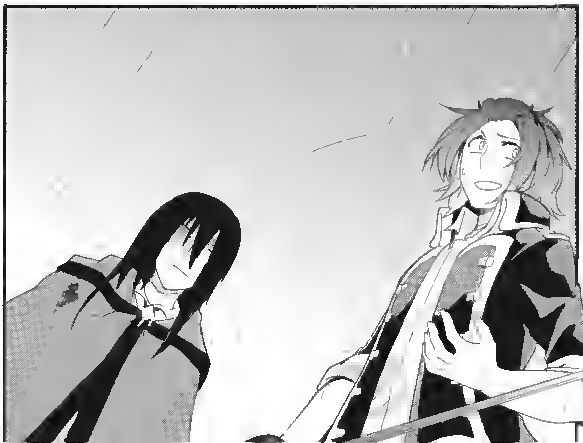
OX EASILY CUT OFF HIS OPPONENT'S ARMS. BESIDES THAT...
...HE'D BEEN USING BOTH ARMS FOR THE WISDOM.
AND YET, HE DIDN'T USE BOTH HANDS AT THE SAME TIME.
...IS THERE SOME REASON HE COULD ONLY USE ONE ARM AT A TIME?
A COINCI-DENCE...? OR...
GASP


THAT'S IT!!!


THEN WHAT HE'S REALLY AFTER IS...!!


HIS FINGERS' ONLY FUNCTION WAS TO HELP HIM AIM...

SWISH
HIS MOUTH IS THE TRIGGER FOR THE WISDOM!
OX, IT'S A TRAP!!
!?
RUSTLE
TOO LATE TO REALIZE IT NOW!!

.....?

Ahh


SLIP

WHUMP
HE EVEN FIGURED OUT WHERE I WAS AIMING.
WARNING THE REDHEAD WAS JUST A DIVERSION.
SWISH
MASTER NEPIOS! GET BACK!!
HE THREW HIMSELF IN HARM'S WAY TO PROTECT THE PADRE...
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IMPORTANT AFTER ALL ABOUT THIS BROWN-SKINNED PRIEST.
...MM?

ROLL
ゴロ…
RUSTLE
WHAT'S THIS...?
NOT ONLY A BOUQUET, BUT SOUVENIRS I CAN GIVE TO HIS MAJESTY?
ssssss
ssssss

.....
...WHY DID THE WISDOM COME OUT...?
CHUCKLE
.....
DO YOU REALLY NEED TO ASK?
THERE ARE BASICALLY TWO WAYS TO GET WISDOM FROM OUT OF A KEEPER'S HEAD...
ONE IS WHEN THE KEEPER HIMSELF ABANDONS HIS CLAIM ON IT.
THE OTHER...

...IS WHEN THE KEEPER DIES, OF COURSE.

Chapter 13:
Big Smile (Crying Face)

BUZZ
BUZZ
SSSS
SSSS
HEY...
...
IVAN.

HEY...
HEY, IVAN.
THIS IS ONE OF YOUR USUAL PLANS, RIGHT?
WELL, YOU CAN GET UP NOW.
FOO
WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE IT AT THAT?
PUT YOURSELF IN MY PLACE. YOU THINK I WANT TO HEAR YOU MUTTERING TO YOURSELF?
SNAP
.....

FACE REALITY.
HE'S DEAD.

AHA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
HAHA!
CLANG
AHA!
HA!
HEE!
HA HA!
PFFT!
AHA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
HA
FOO
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
HA HA HA HA HA!
AHA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

!?
TURN
SWISH

!!
-SWIP
CRACK
FOOL!!
SWISH
SLAM
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? YOU CAN'T REGENERATE ANY...

HMM?
MORE
!!?
SWISH
SLAM

GRAB
CREAK
SQUEEZE
WHAT ARE...
...YOU DOING !?
WHAT'S WITH HIM...? SUDDENLY HE HAS A BLANK EXPRESSION...
STOP IT..
STOP!
BAM

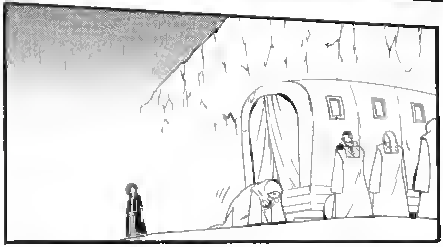
GASP
NO...IT'S NOT JUST HIS EXPRES-SION... IT'S AS IF HE'S...
GRAB
CRACK
AAAARRRGH!
WHACK

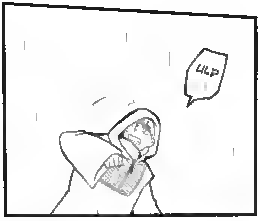
ACK!
WHUMP
IT'S AS IF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
...HE FEELS NOTHING.
ARE YOU OKAY?

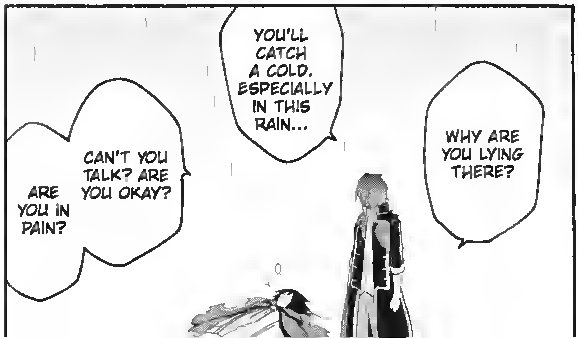
WHY ARE YOU ON THE GROUND?
RUSTLE
HERE.
STAND UP BEFORE YOU CATCH A COLD.
TUG
AAAH!
WHAT, ARE YOU IN PAIN?
YANK
DAMN YOU!
SLAM
...OH.
I SEE...
PULL

CRACK
THEN...
YOUR MOUTH IS THE DEADLY WEAPON. IS THAT RIGHT?
WOBBLE
CRACK
...I'D BETTER CRUSH YOUR THROAT.
SSK
UMM...
YOU UNDER-STAND?
I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT THAT'S ENOUGH...
H-HEY! CALM DOWN!
TUG
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

RUSTLE
WHAT DO YOU UNDER-STAND?



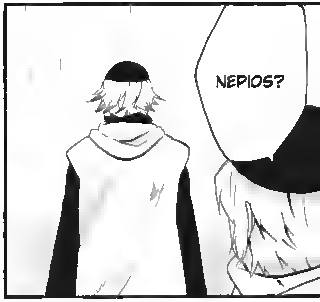

ULP


YOU'LL CATCH A COLD, ESPECIALLY IN THIS RAIN...
WHY ARE YOU LYING THERE?
CAN'T YOU TALK? ARE YOU OKAY?
ARE YOU IN PAIN?

MM?

I DON'T KNOW...
...BUT...
I THINK HE'S OFF HIS ROCKER!
HEY, HIS WORDS AND ACTIONS ARE AT ODDS!
YOU DON'T THINK HE'LL ATTACK US NEXT, DO YOU?
GULP
UNFORTU-NATELY...
RUSTLE
...HE'S BEEN THROUGH THE WRINGER TOO.
AT THIS RATE, I'M SURE HE'LL COLLAPSE SOON.

HEY! STOP! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
SHUT UP...


NEPIOS?

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ゴロゴロ...

YOU DON'T GIVE ME ORDERS!!

CRACK
SHOOOM
CRACK
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
WHOOM

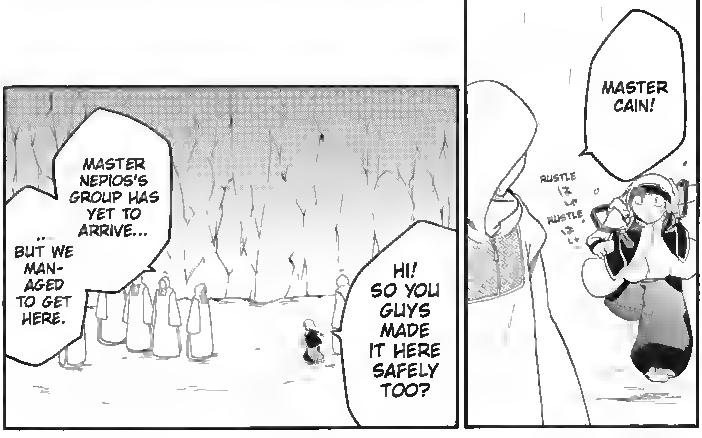
STUBBORN BASTARD!!
STILL HANGING IN THERE!
SLAM
OOF!!
BUT HE CAN STILL HANDLE THAT GIANT SWORD WITH ONE HAND. WHAT KIND OF WISDOM IS HE USING?
A NORMAL HUMAN WOULD BE SO NUMB FROM THE ELECTRICITY THAT THEY'D HAVE A HARD TIME MOVING...
SWISH
YOU CAN KEEP FIGHTING, BUT THE RESULT WILL BE THE SAME!!
CRACKLE
STILL...

AGH!
WHOOSH
TOO BAD...
CLANG
NO MATTER WHICH WISDOM YOU'RE USING...
...NOTHING GETS PAST MY HALBERD!!
TWITCH

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ゴロゴロ…
WISDOM …?
GRASP
SHUCKS… NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT…
YOU'RE INCREDIBLY STRONG, SO I WAS HAVING SO MUCH FUN THAT IT SLIPPED MY MIND.
I BET HIS MAJESTY WILL BE MAD AT ME AGAIN…
I TOTALLY FORGOT…
CRACKLE

...TO USE MY WISDOM.
!?

ALL RIGHT, WE'RE HERE...!
PWUMP
THE ORACULUM!!
RUSTLE
QUICKLY, GET THE PONTIFF INSIDE!!


MASTER CAIN!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HI! SO YOU GUYS MADE IT HERE SAFELY TOO?
MASTER NEPIOS'S GROUP HAS YET TO ARRIVE...
...BUT WE MANAGED TO GET HERE.

...WHERE'S PASSEGAND?
SHE'S FIGHTING THE ENEMY MARQUIS ONE-ON-ONE.
THAT'S BAD NEWS. I'M SURE THEY HAVE REINFORCEMENTS ON THE WAY.
TAKE ME THERE!!
B-BUT IT IS OUR DUTY TO PROTECT THE POPE...

YOU DON'T NEED TO GO ANYWHERE, CHUM!
!

I BROUGHT HER HERE!
PASSE-GANDI!

CRUNCH
OH DEAR.
OUR PRESENCE WASN'T NEEDED AFTER ALL. NOT THAT I WAS WORRIED...
SSK
IT TOOK YOU TWO LONG ENOUGH TO GET HERE!!
!
DAMMIT!! ANYWAY, INSIDE!! GET HER HOLINESS INSIDE THE ORACULUM !!
BUT NEPIOS-SAMA ISN'T HERE YET!
GRIN
IT CAN'T BE HELPED!! WE MUST HAVE FAITH THAT HE WILL COME. BUT FOR NOW, INSIDE!!
DASH
THEN WE CAN MEET UP WITH THE GROUP THAT'S STANDING BY!!
TSK!

FRIENDS!! THERE'S SOMETHING AMISS...
WH-WHAT IS THE MEAN-ING...
...OF THIS!?

I'M TIRED OF WAITING FOR YOU, YOUR HOLINESS!

ARGANBONE !?
SORRY, BUT THOSE WHO WERE IN HERE ARE ON MY SIDE NOW.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A BOTHER TO JUST LET THEM SCAMPER ABOUT.
THE LEADER HIMSELF SHOWS UP. ISN'T THAT SOMEWHAT ASININE?
COMING FROM YOU, IS THAT MEANT TO BE IRONIC?

RUSTLE
ISN'T IT JUST AS DISAGREEABLE WHEN THE KING OF THE HILL RESTS ON HER LAURELS ON THE THRONE?
SCRAPE
...AT YOUR BEAUTIFUL FACE IN DEATH.
BESIDES, I WANTED TO GET A FIRSTHAND LOOK...
CLACK
THERE ARE...
...TWO MAJOR THINGS YOU'RE MISTAKEN ABOUT.
...AS ALWAYS, YOU'RE A REPULSIVE MAN.

FIRST, I AM NO "KING."
THE ONLY REASON I WAS CONVENIENTLY PLACED ON THE PEDESTAL THAT IS THE POPE'S POSITION...
...WAS SO THAT I COULD COMPREHEND MORE OF THE UNKNOWN THAN ANYONE ELSE.
MOREOVER, I ONLY DO AS THE AUTHORITIES TELL ME AND GIVE PERMISSION.
I'M JUST A PUPPET.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. EVEN IF YOU ARE A FIGURE-HEAD...
...YOU HAVE WISDOM, WHICH MAKES YOU A LEADER THAT WE NEED TO DESTROY.
THE UNKNOWN IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
WHETHER THE POPE LIVES OR DIES DOESN'T MATTER.

YOU'RE RIGHT...
CLENCH
...BUT THAT'S ALSO YOUR BIGGEST MISUNDER-STANDING.
?
SALIVA
WE DIDN'T...
...COME HERE TO DIE!

...PULSE OF THE MOTHER GODDESS, DEMETER!!
UNKNOWN NUMBER 9...
SWISH

SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
EARTH-QUAKE ...!?
DAMMIT, WHERE'S THE EXIT!?
DOOM
WAAAAAA!!
WE'VE BEEN HAD!!
THEY MEAN TO CRUSH US ALL WITH THIS BUILDING!!
RUMBLE
SO THIS IS WHY YOU WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF SWITCHING TO AN OLD BUILDING.
I SEE. YOU'VE THOUGHT THIS OUT.
I CALCULATED THAT IF I APPEARED, YOUR SO-CALLED WISEMEN WOULD CONVERGE.
ALTHOUGH YOU PERSONALLY SHOWING UP WAS AN UNEXPECTED STROKE OF LUCK...
BOTH OF US HAVE PARTAKEN OF THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT...

RUMBLE
BOOM
...SO SEE YOU IN HELL...
...ARGANBONE!!!

UNKNOWN

Ayons

Chapter 14: Collapse, and Then... (Resurrection, and...)

BOOM
DAM-MIT!
RUMBLE
AAAARGH!
YOUR HOL!-NESS!!
SWISH
YOU'VE GONE TO GREAT PAINS FOR ME, EVEN UNTO THE END...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
...BUT BELIEVE IN NEPIOS...I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
YES!

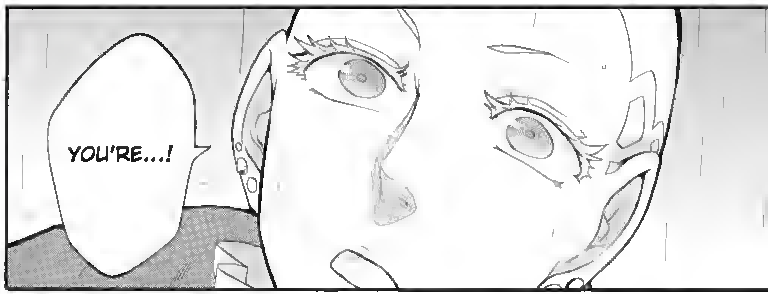
WHOOSH

RUSTLE

I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D ALL GO TO THE GRAVE TOGETHER... THIS IS WHAT FAITH GETS YOU.
WELL, NOW WHAT...?

AHHH.. OH DEAR.

FWISH


YOU'RE...!

GRAB
NEPIOS, WAIT!!

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO LEAVE NOW.
YOU'RE THE KEY TO THIS WHOLE PLAN!
I KNOW IT'S HARD, BUT WE MUST WAIT FOR BOTH OF THEM TO FALL...
SHUT UP!!
SWISH
I CAN'T STAND BY AND WATCH ANY MORE OF THIS!!
I'M GOING TO STOP IT IN MY OWN WAY!
SGK

WOBBLE
SCRSC
DRIP
I HAVE A FEELING...
...BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS...
...THAT SOMETHING IMPORTANT HAPPENED...
...SO WHATEVER.

...BUT HIS BODY REGENERATES AND HE FEELS NO PAIN. REALLY, HE'S JUST A...
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT HE WAS A FOOL PLAYING AT BEING A HERO...
KKKK
...I MADE A TERRIBLE MISCALCULATION.
MONSTER!
SWISH

SWISH

RUSTLE
...IVAN?
.....
...THERE'S NO NEED TO ATTACK THIS GUY ANYMORE. YOU UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH DON'T YOU?
HUH...? AH.
NOW HURRY UP AND CLOSE YOUR WOUNDS BEFORE YOU KEEL OVER.
FWUMP
R-RIGHT
...HEY.
ARE YOU...

...REALLY IVAN?
.....
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE ORACULUM WITHOUT A MOMENT TO SPARE
ESK
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERY-THING LATER.
.....?

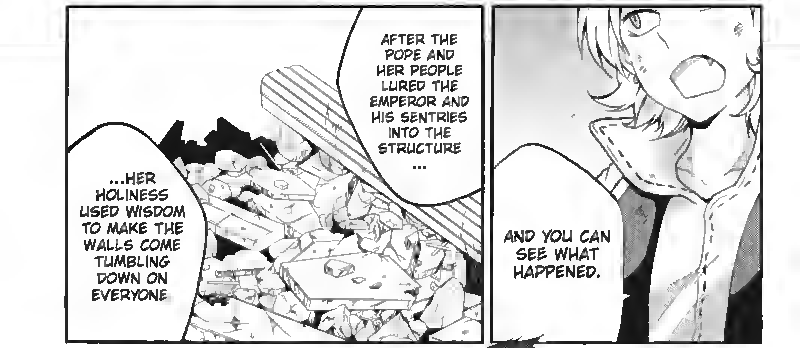
SMOKE
モク
SMOKE
モク
CRAB
ガ
OW!
GLITTER
ガラ
GLITTER
ガラ
AAAAH!
JUST ENOUGH SPACE BETWEEN THE PILLAR AND THE GROUND...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'M GRATEFUL FOR HAVING SHRUNK.
COF

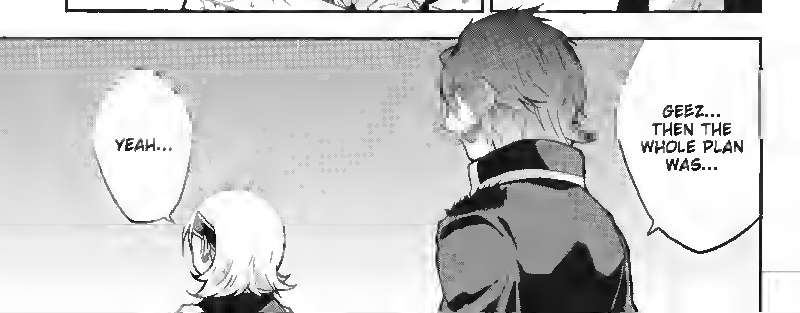
BUT MAN...
...WHAT A DISASTER.

AWFUL...

CAIN!
ALTHOUGH GOD IS THE BIGGEST IDIOT OF ALL FOR CREATING THESE DAMN THINGS.
CLENCH
ALL THIS FIGHTING OVER RULES...
I CAN'T TELL WHETHER HUMANS ARE CLEVER OR STUPID

YOU'RE LATE!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE!?


AFTER THE POPE AND HER PEOPLE LURED THE EMPEROR AND HIS SENTRIES INTO THE STRUCTURE ...
...HER HOLINESS USED WISDOM TO MAKE THE WALLS COME TUMBLING DOWN ON EVERYONE
AND YOU CAN SEE WHAT HAPPENED.


YEAH...
GEEZ... THEN THE WHOLE PLAN WAS...

....A SUCCESS.
!?
HUH? HOW DO YOU FIGURE?
AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, FOR PROTECTING HIM.
THE REST IS IN YOUR HANDS...
...NEPIOS.
RUSTLE
TCH!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO GIVE ME ORDERS!!

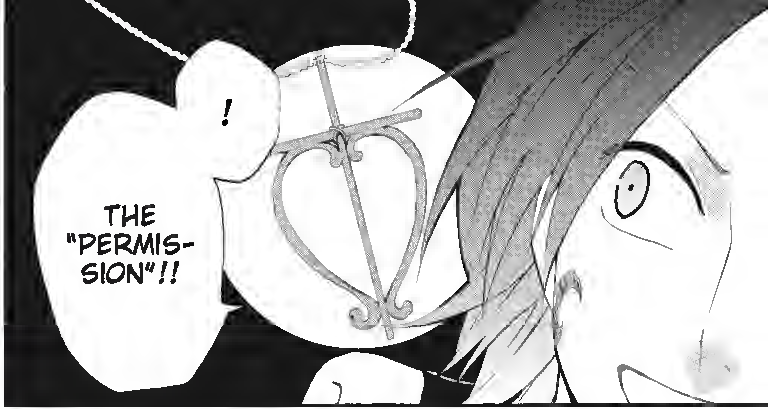
RATTLE
WHAT'S THAT...?
THEY'RE MY...
...RIBS.

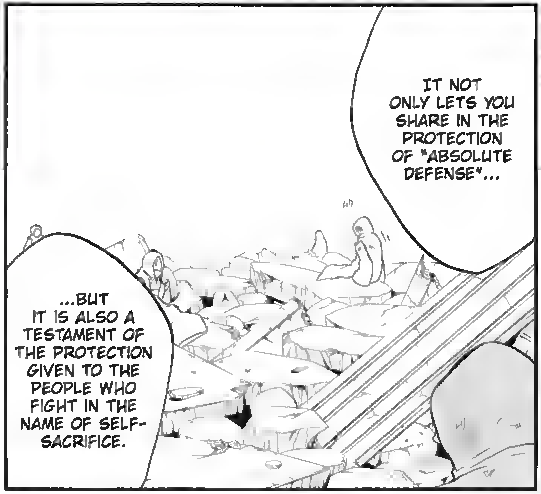
THOK
RUSTLE
UNKNOWN NUMBER 2!
THUMP
THOK
DIVINE PROTECTION OF THE GODDESS, HERA!!
WITH THE USER'S RIBS AND THE GROUND AS CORNER-STONES...
GLOW
...I GIVE UP TIME THAT IS WITHIN MY REACH...

WHOOM
...TO SAVE THE CHOSEN WARRIORS' SOULS!!
GLOW

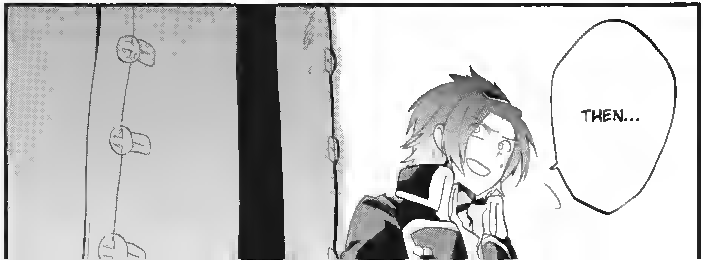
UNHH...
WOBBLE
...OW...
GLOW
!
GOD ONCE USED ADAM'S RIB TO BLOW LIFE INTO CLAY.
GIVING LIFE TO A VESSEL THAT HAD LOST IT...
YOU BROUGHT HIM BACK TO LIFE!?
IT'S THE WISDOM THAT BEARS THE NAME OF THE WIFE OF ZEUS, THE ABSOLUTE GOD.
IT'S THE POWER OF "HERA."

BUT... BUT ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY TO DO THAT?
OF COURSE ...
...THIS POWER HAS ITS LIMITS.
I CAN ONLY GIVE TIME THAT I POSSESS...
...TIME THAT I STEAL FROM SINNERS AND BELIEVERS, IN THE NAME OF DONATIONS.
AND I NEVER INCREASE THE TIME OF SOULS THAT WERE ALIVE IN THIS WORLD.
OKAY, BUT WHEN YOU DO THIS THING, ISN'T THE ENEMY RESURRECTED TOO?
DO YOU TAKE ME FOR A FOOL? IT ONLY WORKS ON THOSE WHO POSSESS A FRAGMENT OF MY RIBS.
A FRAGMENT OF YOUR RIBS?
AS YOU WERE ALLOWED INTO THE CHURCH, YOU MUST HAVE IT TOO.


!
THE "PERMIS-SION"!!


IT NOT ONLY LETS YOU SHARE IN THE PROTECTION OF "ABSOLUTE DEFENSE"...
...BUT IT IS ALSO A TESTAMENT OF THE PROTECTION GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE WHO FIGHT IN THE NAME OF SELF-SACRIFICE.

THAT'S RIGHT.


THEN...

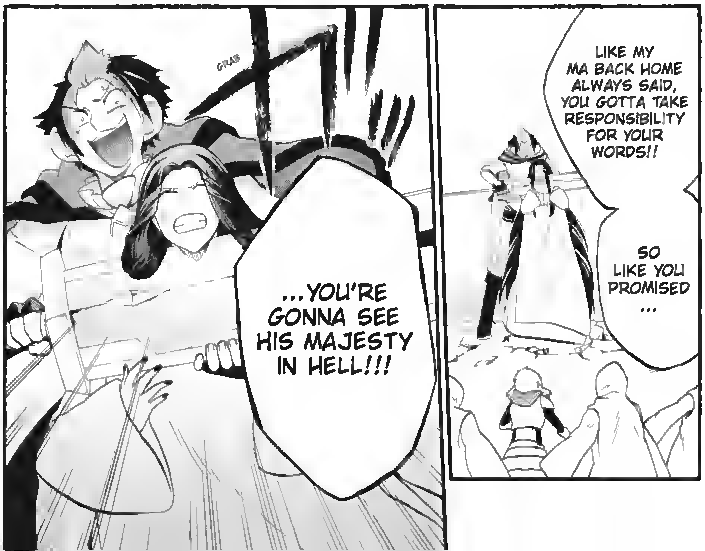
SORRY IF I DISAPPOINTED YOU.
.....
...YOU ARE THE REAL IVAN, HUH?
I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE. OUR MISSION WAS TO PROTECT HIM...
WHY THE HELL DID YOU YELL, "IT'S A TRAP"!? THAT'S WHY HE NAILED YOU!!
YOU CAN'T PROTECT ANYBODY WHEN YOU'RE DEAD!!
OH, I REALLY WAS DEAD.
YOU SCARED ME!!
DUMBASS!! I REALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!!
YEAH, BUT SINCE I WAS ABLE TO USE THE WISDOM, SHE MUST BE OKAY.
WE'D BETTER FIND HER HOLINESS ...
THE FIRST TIME WAS YOUR FAULT, REMEMBER!? AND WITH THAT FACE, YOU LOOK LIKE DEATH WARMED OVER!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SEE YOU LOOK DEAD BEFORE YOU'RE SATISFIED!?
?
SQUABBLE
SQUABBLE

GASP
YOUR HOLINESS!!
NESS
HOLI-NESS
GOOD...
PHEW..
THE PLAN WAS A SUCCESS!
EVERY-ONE...

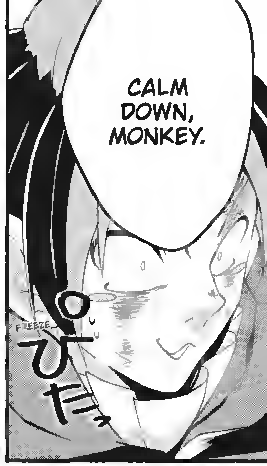
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE SAFE!!
PASSE-GAND!!
I AM TRULY GRATEFUL.
THAT'S BECAUSE ALL OF YOU RISKED YOUR LIVES TO PROTECT ME FROM THE DEBRIS.
YOUR HOLI-NESS!!
AHH
NOT AT ALL. WE ONLY FULFILLED OUR DUTY...
...YES.
IT SEEMS I PLACED A RATHER LARGE BURDEN ON YOU TOO.
CRUMBLE
NONSENSE! I'M FINE, SO I WANT ALL OF YOU TO HELP OVER THERE..
YES SOME OF OUR PEO-PLE ARE TRYING TO DIG THEM OUT NOW
WHAT!?
ACTUALLY, THERE ARE STILL SEVERAL PEOPLE BURIED UNDER THE RUBBLE...

THAT'S ...
...NO FAIR!!!
WHOOM
WHA...!?
TALK ABOUT SNEAKY!!
HUFF!
HUFF!

SWOOSH
I GAVE THIS BATTLE MY ALL, SO FOR YOU PEOPLE TO MAKE A COMEBACK NOW...
...IS LIKE CHEATING!!
"SEE YOU IN HELL," MY ASS!
AND YOUR "SELF-SACRIFICE" BALONEY TICKS ME OFF!
WHOOM

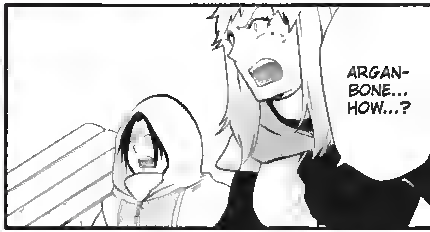

GRAB
...YOU'RE GONNA SEE HIS MAJESTY IN HELL!!!
LIKE MY MA BACK HOME ALWAYS SAID, YOU GOTTA TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR WORDS!!
SO LIKE YOU PROMISED...

THERE'S NO CALL FOR YOU TO ACT LIKE SOME AVENGING HERO.
AND WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT ME GOING TO HELL? HUH?


CALM DOWN, MONKEY.
FREEZE
ぴた

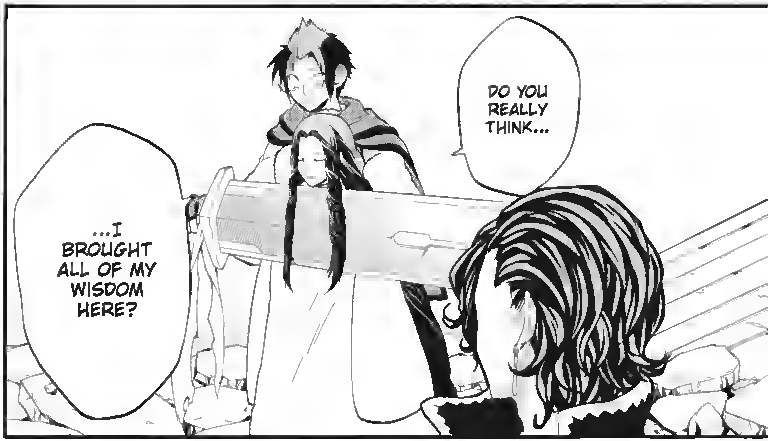
KUK
フキ…
HE'S NOT ONLY ALIVE...
...BUT WITHOUT A SCRATCH ON HIM?

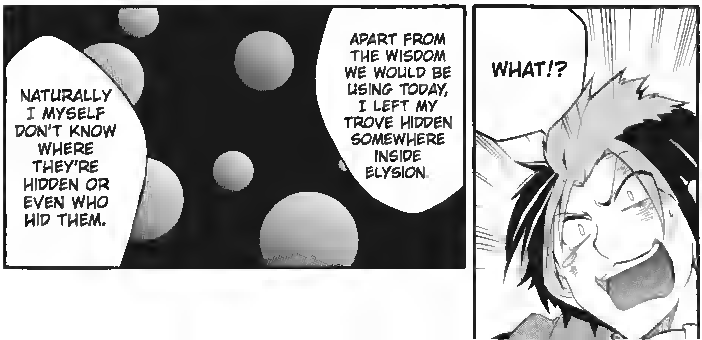
OF COURSE, YOU NITWIT. DON'T GO KILLING ME OFF!
YOUR MAJESTY! YOU'RE ALIVE!?
TEARY


ARGAN-BONE... HOW...?

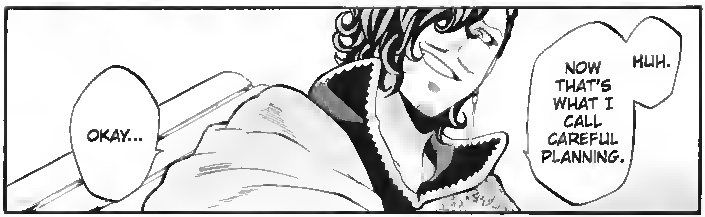
HUH?
I SEE.
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
IT WAS A WELL THOUGHT-OUT PLAN FOR YOU...
...BUT IT LACKED A BIT OF FOLLOW-THROUGH.
NOW IF YOU DIE, NO ONE ELSE CAN COME BACK TO LIFE.
UNFOR-TUNATELY, YOUR SIDE LOSES.

DON'T BE SO SURE.
... HOW DO YOU MEAN?


DO YOU REALLY THINK...
...I BROUGHT ALL OF MY WISDOM HERE?

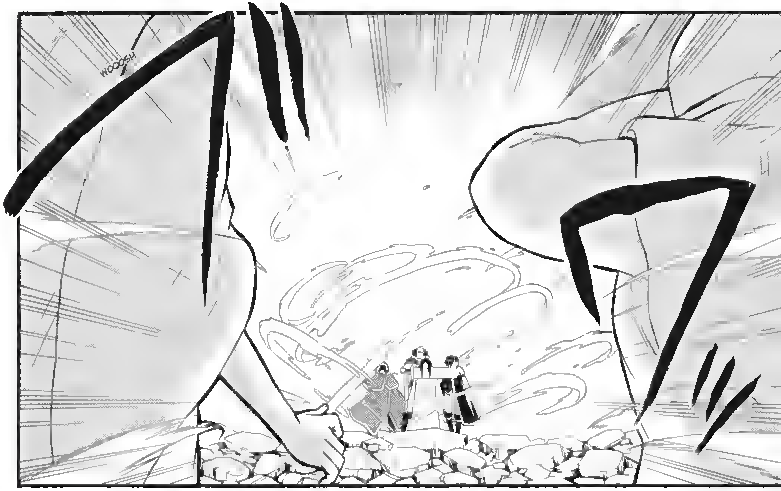

APART FROM THE WISDOM WE WOULD BE USING TODAY, I LEFT MY TROVE HIDDEN SOMEWHERE INSIDE ELYSION.
NATURALLY I MYSELF DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY'RE HIDDEN OR EVEN WHO HID THEM.
WHAT!?

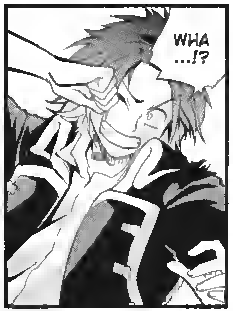
THEREFORE...
...YOU CAN'T WIN BY KILLING ME.


HUH.
NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL CAREFUL PLANNING.
OKAY...

SWISH
OH NO YOU DON'T!!
WHA ...!?
YES, YOUR MAJESTY!!
MONKEY, WE'RE TAKING HER HOME WITH US.

SNAP
ぱちん


WOOSH


WHA
...!?

?
DD//
THEY'RE GONE!?
FWOOO
DAMMIT! TELEPOR-TATION WISDOM!!

WHAT'S WRONG, OX?
NOTH-ING...
JUST SEEMED LIKE THE ONE IN THE HOOD...
...WAS SMILING AT ME.
SMASH
THIS IS A DISASTER ...
...BUT WE KNEW IT COULD HAPPEN
PASSEGAND, CALM DOWN
BREAKING YOUR FIST WON'T BRING BACK HER HOLINESS

HAVING HER HOLINESS TAKEN HOSTAGE IS HARD ON US...
...BUT WE'RE NOT EXACTLY LEAVING EMPTY-HANDED EITHER.
BUZZ
BUZZ
EVERYONE! WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE CHURCH!
CLEAR THE RUBBLE!
HEY, FOUR-EYES.
I WANT A WORD WITH YOU.

BUT ANYWAY!
THAT WAS THE PLAN ANYWAY.
BESIDES, I OWED YOU ONE FOR SHIELDING ME.

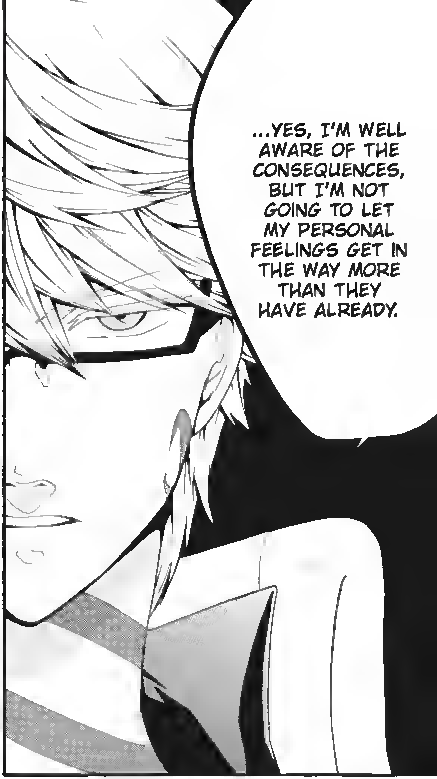
AGAIN, I THANK YOU...
...FOR BRINGING ME BACK TO LIFE.

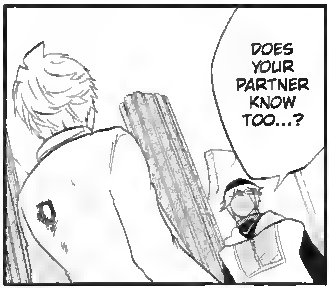
IT WAS WISDOM THAT BREATHED LIFE BACK INTO YOU TODAY.
BUT LET ME JUST SAY ONE THING.

THE POPE TOLD ME YOU GUYS ARE TRYING TO SEAL AWAY ALL THE WISDOM.
I'M NOT GOING TO ARGUE WITH YOU OVER THAT.

SO IF YOU MAKE ALL THE WISDOM IN THE WORLD DISAPPEAR...
...YOU'LL DIE AT THAT VERY MOMENT.
DO YOU INTEND TO SEAL THEM AWAY NEVER-THELESS?

WHA
...!?


...YES, I'M WELL AWARE OF THE CONSEQUENCES, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET MY PERSONAL FEELINGS GET IN THE WAY MORE THAN THEY HAVE ALREADY.

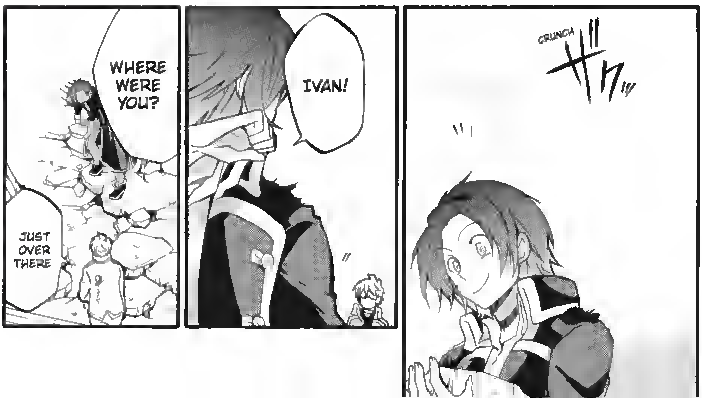

DOES YOUR PARTNER KNOW TOO...?

AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL HIM!?

...NO.
JUST ME.

HMPH.
STUPID QUESTION.
TELLING HIM WOULD ONLY MAKE IT HARDER FOR US TO GATHER THE WISDOM.
AS TO THAT, I WOULD SAY LOOK IN THE MIRROR.
ALWAYS GOTTA HAVE THAT BOLD FRONT UP, HUH? JERK!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO WARN ME JUST NOW...
...BUT PLEASE DON'T SAY A WORD ABOUT IT TO ANYONE ELSE.
HMPH!


WHERE WERE YOU?
JUST OVER THERE
IVAN!
CRUNCH

WELL, QUIT SLACKING OFF AND HELP CLEAR AWAY THE DEBRIS.
I'M STAG-GERING AROUND FROM BLOOD LOSS AND I'M STILL DOIN' IT!!
DON'T COM-PLAIN TO ME. IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT.
YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH!!
AND I LOST MORE BLOOD THAN YOU
UNFORTU-NATELY,
...PHYSICAL LABOR IS NOT MY SPECIALTY.
SHEESH!! EVEN DYING COULDN'T CURE YOU OF THE NEED TO ARGUE FOR ARGUMENT'S SAKE!!
WANNA TRY IT ONCE MORE AND SEE IF IT DOES ANY GOOD!?
I COULD DIE A DOZEN TIMES, BUT I DON'T THINK IT WOULD CHANGE ANYTHING.
IS THAT RIGHT?
BY THE WAY, IT STOPPED RAINING SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE.
MM?

YEAH...

SO IT HAS.
TO BE CONTINUED IN UNKNOWN 4

AFTERWORD

LONG TIME NO SEE, EVERYONE! THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PURCHASING VOLUME 3 OF UNKNOWN!

HUH...?

THIS TIME AS WELL, WE'RE LACKING IN BONUS PAGES, BUT IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO SKIP PROFILES AFTER I KEEP PROMISING THEM...

I SEE WE HAVE EVERYONE BELOW.

...SO I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND PRESENT BRIEF PROFILES.

HERE THEY ARE IN ORDER OF HEIGHT. OX-KUN AND IVAN-KUN ARE ABOUT THE SAME

APPROXIMATELY...

175ISH

AROUND 165

ABOUT 160

UM... LET'S SEE... IT SEEMS OX IS THE HEAVIEST AND IVAN HAS LONG LEGS...

THAT'S MEAN!!

THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED

...THAT BEING SAID, IT LOOKS LIKE ONLY THE VAGUEST BACKGROUND DETAILS HAVE BEEN DECIDED...

I SEE THAT KAMIKOMI RATES VEGETABLES AS WELL AS SWEETS. GARDEN EBISU...

HE'S A CARNIVORE

BACKSTORY INFO

FOR AGE, IT'S LIKE THIS.

ALL OF THE GIRLS ARE YOUNGER AS A RESULT OF MY EFFORTS. YES, INDEED.

LATE 20S (CURRENTLY JUST OVER 10)

EARLY 20S

LATE TEENS

SAME AGE

MID-TEENS

EARLY TEENS (CURRENTLY JUST OVER 20)

INCIDENTALLY, I'M IN MY 30S AND 170 CM TALL.

APPARENTLY, THE AGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SET AND NOAH IS LIKE "HER BIG BROTHER'S CLASSMATE SUDDENLY COMING OVER AND HE'S SO COOL."

OH, THAT'S MY LITTLE SISTER!

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME...SEE...

THUMP

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?

I DON'T GET IT.

4 1/2

JOHNNY DEPP.
HUH? AND WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN, DIRECTOR?
YOU CAN COME UP WITH A BETTER LIE THAN THAT.
SETH (SET): CAIN AND ABEL'S YOUNGER BROTHER IN THE BIBLE
NOAH: FAMOUS FOR THE ARK
CAIN
ABEL
FAMOUS BROTHERS
WE'VE BEEN GETTING QUESTIONS ABOUT NAMES. ASIDE FROM OX-KUN, IVAN-KUN AND MYSELF, THE NAMES OF THE MEMBERS OF PARADISE LOST WERE TAKEN FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT.
アーガンボーン
aganboun
nobunaga
NOBUNAGA (ODA)
アヴィヤシュ
aviash
hashiva
HASHIBA (HIDEYOSHI)
シンギス アケトゥ
singish aketat
shingen takeda
SHINGEN TAKEDA
THE OTHER MEMBERS' NAMES ARE ALONG THE SAME LINES
HEY, WHY ARE THE JAPANESE NAMES SCRAMBLED??
ISN'T THAT WEIRD?
AND THE NAMES OF THE IBLIS CHARACTERS ARE MORE OR LESS ANAGRAMS OF MILITARY COMMANDERS FROM THE WARRING STATES PERIOD.
THE TOP TWO HAVE THE SAME PERSONALITY AS THEIR NAMESAKE
POPE CARILLON
καλλίων
BEAUTIFUL
IT SEEMS THE ELYSION CHARACTER NAMES ARE RIFFS ON GREEK NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES.
PASSEGAND
φύσσαγγον
SWORD
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE NAMES OF THE WISDOM COME FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY, RIGHT?
NEPIOS
νήπιος
LIKE A KID (PERSONALITY)
HMPH! WHAT KIND OF NAME IS THAT?!
CRACK
HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN VOLUME 4!!
MAYBE I LIKED THE SOUND OF "IVAN" OR THE GENERAL VIBE?
ONLY THINK THAT MUCH PASSING THROUGH
HMM...IT DOESN'T SAY.
SO WHERE DO IVAN AND I GET OUR NAMES FROM? WE'RE THE MAIN CHARACTERS HERE, SO I'M SURE THERE'S SOME DEEP MEANING

Special Thanks!!!

OIKAWA-SAN HAKKA-SAN NARUMI-CHAN

HARLEKIN

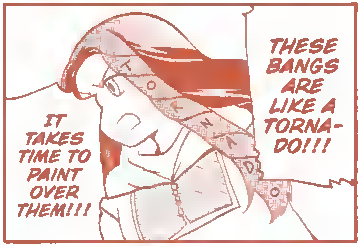
NOZAKI-SAN! AND YOU!!

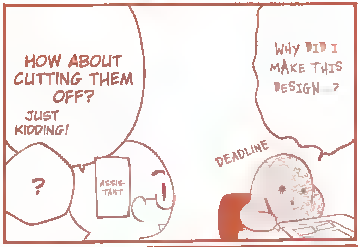
AN ADULT DOESN'T CRY OVER A LITTLE PAIN LIKE THAT!!
BUT IT HURTS!
AND I CAN'T WALK!
AND I'M NOT AN ADULT!
WAAAAAAH!
FINE, JUST DON'T COMPLAIN IF IVAN HATES YOU FOR ACTING LIKE A BABY!!
I DON'T WANT HIM TO HATE ME! WAAAAAH!
QUIT CRYING, I SAID!!!
I CAN'T HELP IT!

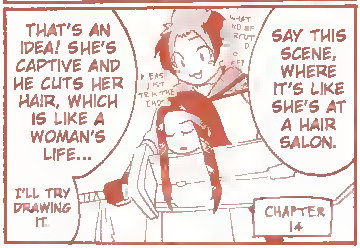
THE OAF

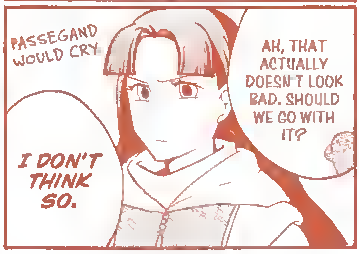
FROM VOLUME 2
DUMBASS!! I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!!
I KNOW HOW HE SEEMS, BUT HE REALLY IS STRONG.
BECAUSE HE IS OAFISH, DUH!
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOUR NICKNAME FOR NOAH IS "THE OAF?"
OF COURSE!! ANYBODY COULD TELL THAT SHE'S IN LOVE WITH HIM!!
AND YET THAT OAF DOESN'T MAKE ONE DAMNED MOVE!!!
HUH!? OH, THAT!?
I MEAN REGARDING HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH SET!!
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! YOU'RE CHANGING THE STORY!!!
THIS ISN'T AN "ADULTS ONLY" BOOK!
...AND THEN HE STARTED TO...
HEH-HEH-HEH...
ALTHOUGH THERE WAS THE TIME HE RUSHED OVER TO HER...
AHCHOO
ARE YOU OKAY?
STOP!!
AS IF! THE BIG OAF!!

FUN WORKPLACE 1

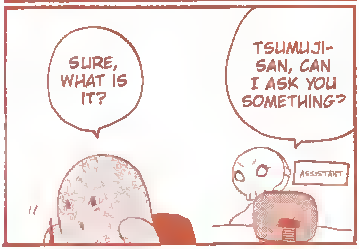


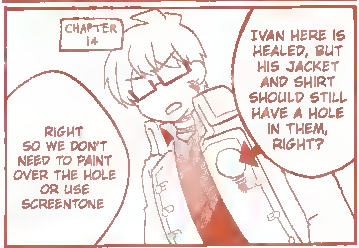



THAT'S AN IDEA! SHE'S CAPTIVE AND HE CUTS HER HAIR, WHICH IS LIKE A WOMAN'S LIFE...
I'LL TRY DRAWING IT.
SAY THIS SCENE, WHERE IT'S LIKE SHE'S AT A HAIR SALON.
CHAPTER 14



FUN WORKPLACE 2




CHAPTER 14
IVAN HERE IS HEALED, BUT HIS JACKET AND SHIRT SHOULD STILL HAVE A HOLE IN THEM, RIGHT?
RIGHT SO WE DON'T NEED TO PAINT OVER THE HOLE OR USE SCREENTONE

DON'T SAY THAT!!!
AT LEAST IN THE MAIN STORY, LET HIM BE COOL!!!
...THEN WE CAN SEE IVAN'S CHEST HERE, RIGHT?
POSITIONALLY
THAT'S BEEN BUGGING ME.
IT'S YOUR LIFE'S FOR HIM IN THE SUNSHINE HANGER

UNKNOWN 3

Tsumuji Yoshimura

Translation: Sheldon Drzka
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